Six Misuari men slain in Sulu clashes

STORY ON PAGE A2

₱15

Women demand justice for Carlson

BY JULIET JAVELLANA

TO MEMORIALIZE Ma. Teresa Carlson, a cornerstone will be laid today at the Quezon Memorial Circle. And one day it will rise to become a monument for abused women.

Carlson was buried yesterday in Laoag City, Ilocos Sur. *(See story in Metro, Page A25.)*

WOMEN/ A20

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS
DECEMBER 2, 2001 ★ 80 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 357

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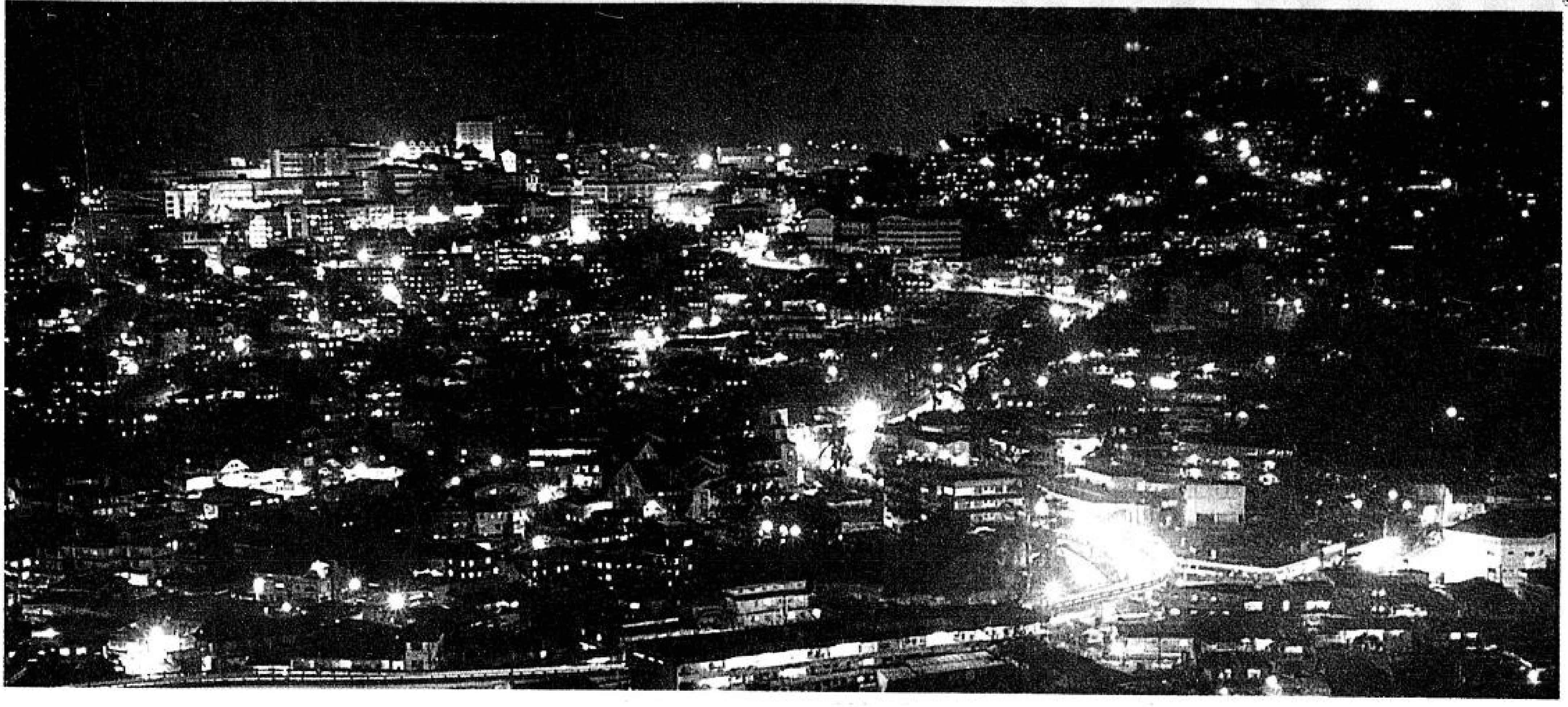


NO, THIS IS NOT KABUL

But Baguio up in lights beckoning to year-long weary lowlanders to come up sometime during the holidays. The city's campaign dubbed "Balik Baguio sa Pasko 2001" was launched with a parade and simultaneous lighting of the main streets. Other activities include a Christmas lights design contest, children's mardi gras, the Philippine Military Academy Cadets' Day and performances by different artists.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHRN LUZON BUREAU

'GMA knew about deal'

Archbishop belies Palace claim Dante Ang is acting on his own

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo knew "from the very beginning" about the negotiation for the compromise settlement on the coconut levy fund, Davao City Archbishop Fernando Capalla said yesterday.

Asked in a radio interview whether the President was aware of the negotiation, Capalla, citing people close to her, answered: "That's what they told me. *Alam ni Pangulo daw* (The President reportedly knew about it)."

The archbishop appeared to be referring to Dante Ang, the President's publicist, and Efren Villaseñor, a board member of the Philippine Coconut Authority, who helped broker the negotiation.

The archbishop's statements belie claims by Ang and the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao that Ms Macapagal had nothing to do with the negotiation and that the publicist was merely acting in a "private" capacity.

Ang denied telling Capalla that the negotiation had the go-signal of the President. But her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said she had not ordered him (Ang) to stay away from the negotiation.

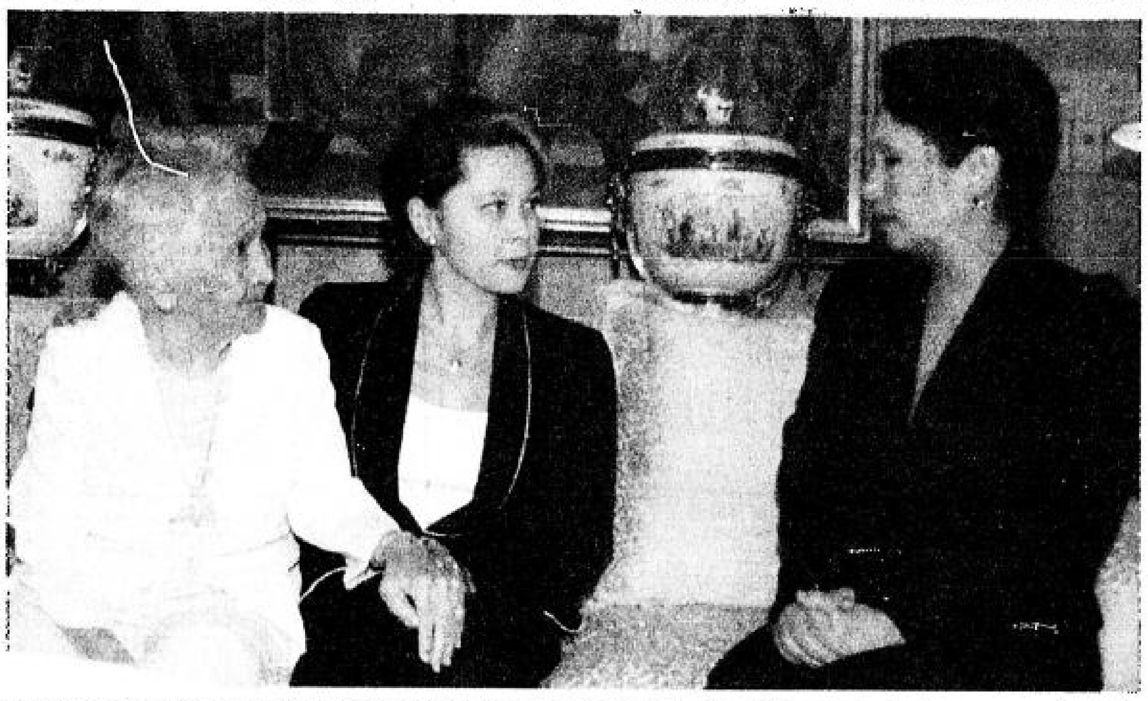
"He's not involved in it so there's nothing to discourage him from," Tiglao said when asked if the President had ordered Ang to stop being involved.

But Tiglao admitted that he himself was wondering why Ang was invited at all to the meeting on Sept. 27 in Davao City.

"You have to ask him that. That's not part of my . . . I don't know about that. I don't even know that he was there," Tiglao said.

Capalla admitted that he had called for a meeting between the farmers and Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat in Davao

GMA/ A20



THE NIDA BLANCA murder mystery gets the attention of President Macapagal who assures the late actress' daughter Kaye Torres and her mother Inocencia Acqueza that there will be no whitewash. ***(Story on page A7)***

EDWIN BACASMAS

Farmers seek full disclosure of coco deal

BY VOLT CONTRERAS, TJ BURGONIO AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

FARMERS' groups yesterday demanded full disclosure of the proposed compromise settlement on the coconut levy fund, and cautioned President Macapagal-Arroyo against forging a deal with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said a congressional inquiry would be the best venue for disclosure of the supposed agreement brokered by the President's publicist Dante Ang.

"The bottom line is to have the fund returned to the 20 million farmers and their families nationwide who are dependent on the coconut industry," Ramos said at the weekly Cypress Forum in Quezon City.

He said the inquiry should also include allegations that the President and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo were eyeing a cut in the fund for their "war chest" in the 2004 elections.

Romeo Royandoyan, executive

FARMERS/ A20

Serge: Gov't asked my help in paying ₱17M to Abus

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. Sergio Osmeña III yesterday said he helped deliver P17 million in ransom to the Abu Sayyaf bandits for the release of businessman Reghis Romero II in June.

"I know ransom was paid by Reghis Romero because (the government) used my help in paying the ransom," Osmeña told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Osmeña, however, refused to give details how he helped deliver the money to the bandits.

He refused to name who in government had sought his help despite the Macapagal administration's "no negotiations, no ransom" policy. What he did say was that he did not reveal his knowledge about the ransom payment earlier on because he did not want to undermine military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

He also pointed out that the Senate and House of Representatives were then about to conduct a separate inquiry into military operations against the bandits and allegations of ransom payment.

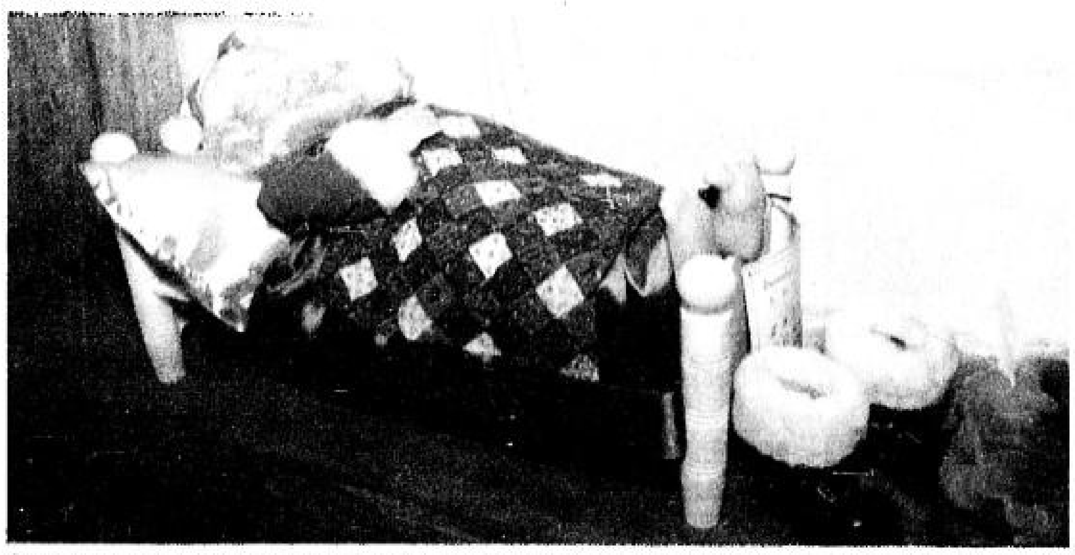
Even so, Osmeña criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo for failing to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

"(She) has been the President for 11 months and she cannot even catch the 74 Abu Sayyaf (members) although she has 8,000 troops in Basilan," Osmeña said.

He said that despite reports that the military had allowed the Abu Sayyaf to slip through its cordon in

SERGE/ A21

Yes, Dulce, there is a Santa Claus



SNORING Santa is part of the 10-year-old Santa Claus collection of Dulce Saguisag, who carries with her memories of giving and sharing in this season of love.

JESS YUSON

BY LEILA B. SALAVERRIA
Contributor

DAY after Christamas, Santa Claus is bone-tired, curled up in bed and snoring through a much-deserved sleep.

A most cherished image of Santa for Dulce Saguisag, who has never stopped believing "how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus!"

Turn on the battery operated, sleeping doll tucked in bed with a quilt and its chest heaves up and down. And how it can snore to disturb the silence of the Holy Night.

For the past 10 years, Saguisag, wife of prominent lawyer Rene Saguisag and former social welfare secretary, has been collecting Santa Claus figures. "Christmas is not Christmas without Santa Claus," she says. "He adds to the holiday spirit and relieves tension and stress."

It's not as if she needs reminding of the season of cheer. Her house is primed for it: A variety of nativity scenes crowd the shelves; angels deck the walls and occupy every nook and cranny, and Santa Claus, of course, has a room of his own.

It may be paradoxical that her Christmas collection reminds her of what is really important during the holidays. Family, friends and the people who touch her life. But then, it is they who had given her the Santas, the angels, the manger, the Joseph, the Mary and the baby Jesus. It is they who had enriched

YES/ A21

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BEATLEMANIA/ A21

SUMUKO NA KAYO
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MASAKTAN!

6 Misuari men slain in clashes

SIX followers of Muslim leader Nur Misuari were killed, while nine soldiers and a civilian were wounded in separate clashes as the military stepped up its hunt for renegade rebels in the southern Philippines, officials said Saturday.

The incidents occurred even as presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that if Misauri, former Moro National Liberation Front chair, was returned to the Philippines, the government would ask him to order his followers to lay down their arms.

Soldiers were searching for remnants of Misuari's renegade band when they encountered about 100 of them in Paticul, Sulu, at noon Friday, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said in a report.

The bodies of five rebels were recovered after the four-hour clash. Three of them were identified as Commanders Sahabil Jurham Saptal, Bensali Ibrahim and Abdul Hammed Hanibuleh. The two other fatalities were not identified.

Intercepted radio messages indicated the rebels suffered high casualties and dragged off some of the bodies of their comrades.

Nine soldiers were wounded during the firefight. They belonged to the 7th Infantry Battalion, Cimatu said.

A camp of Misuari's men was captured by the military on Saturday without any resistance, assistant operations chief Roland Detabali said.

Also on Saturday, troops and police clashed with other Misuari followers in the Pasonanca district of Zamboanga City, killing one of the rebels. A civilian was wounded in the incident, police desk officer Noel Falcasantos said.

An elite anti-terror unit backed by three F-5 fighter jets was dispatched to Mindanao to deal with Misuari's followers, air force spokesperson Col. Horacio Lapinid said.

Governor-turned-rebel

Misuari, who became governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in a 1996 accord with the government, repudiated the pact on Nov. 19 when he led attacks on military detachments in Sulu in order to try and stop the Nov. 26 elections for his post.

The revolt was quashed after more than 100 persons from both the rebel and military sides were killed, and Misuari was arrested in Malaysia after fleeing Jolo.

Another group of Misuari followers later occupied a government complex near Pasonanca on the outskirts of Zamboanga City and seized more than 100 civilian hostages to obtain safe passage out of the city.

Tiglao said in Manila that if Misuari is deported to the Philippines he would get a fair trial, but the Malaysians were still investigating him for violation of their immigration laws.

He said that if Misuari returned "we could ask him to tell his followers to stop these bloody offensives."

Mopping up

Although most of Misuari's men have left Zamboanga City, groups of stragglers have remained on its outskirts and have had violent encounters with pursuing police, military forces and even angry civilians who are reportedly arming themselves against the return of the renegades.

Among those who reportedly took part in the latest battle in Jolo on the side of Misauri's forces were members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, Detabali said.

The government is looking into reported links between Misuari and the Abu Sayyaf who have been kidnapping civilians and holding them for ransom for years.

The Abu Sayyaf are still holding two Americans and a Filipino nurse hostage on the nearby island of Basilan, the last remaining captives from their latest kidnapping spree which was launched in May.

Officials also said they are looking into allegations that Misuari misused government funds that were allocated to his office, possibly even using the money to buy arms for his followers.

Since 1996, when he became ARMM governor, critics have decried the lack of progress in the four-province region. Funds totaling some P30 million, they said, did not end up with the ARMM as intended. *TJ Burgonio, with an AFP report*

OIC body to study Misuari problem

By Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has assigned its Committee of the Eight, chaired by Indonesia, to discuss the recent developments involving former governor Nur Misuari in Mindanao and submit a report.

Dr. Abdelouabed Belkeziz, OIC secretary general, told Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Nur Hassan Wirajuda that it was not appropriate for the OIC as a whole to discuss "the question of Muslims in the Southern Philippines," without having it pass through the Committee of the Eight.

"It is appropriate to discuss all developments regarding the question of Muslims in the Southern Philippines within the framework of the OIC Ministerial Committee of Eight, which can then submit its report to the forthcoming Twenty-ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for consideration," Belkeziz wrote on Nov. 24.

The OIC secretary general's letter was prompted by a communication from the Philippine government requesting the OIC to withdraw its support from Misuari.

Not recognized

Vice President Teofisto Guingona in August and September told foreign ministers of Muslim countries that Misuari was no longer recognized by the Moro National Liberation Front as its leader and that he had been replaced by the Council of 15.

Misuari was booted out of the MNLF by the Malacañang-backed council, but he was named chairman emeritus, a non-existent position in the MNLF Central Committee.

Misuari refused to recognize the Council of 15, which includes leading Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao gubernatorial bet Dr. Parouk Hussin, and branded them as traitors.

In a separate letter addressed to Wirajuda, Belkeziz maintained the OIC's position against the holding of the ARMM gubernatorial elections.

He also urged the Committee of the Eight "to consider the possibility of convening an extraordinary meeting" with the participation of the MNLF "under the chairmanship of Prof. Nur Misuari and the government of the Republic of the Philippines."

In Malaysia, where he is being held in a Sabah jail, the youth wing of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's party has urged the government to deport Misuari immediately.

Hishamuddin Hussein, youth chief of the United Malays National Organization, said Misuari should not be held in Malaysia for long.

"I hope a decision will be made soon (to deport Misuari). There is no reason to delay it," Bernama news agency quoted Hussein as saying Saturday in the central state of Pahang. *With an AFP report*

Cool it, Palace appeals to irate Zambo residents

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana

MALACAÑANG is alarmed by reports that residents of Zamboanga City have armed themselves to fight back against the followers of renegade governor Nur Misuari who took more than 100 civilians hostage last week in a bid to escape from the city.

Since the hostage-taking incident on Wednesday, Zamboanga City residents have been attacking suspected renegades who may have been left behind by their comrades who were "escorted" out of the city by the military.

At least 27 persons, including civilians, were killed during the firefight between the military and Misuari's followers that day.

"The President is appealing to residents of Zamboanga City not to take the law into their own hands," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"The military and police have assured us that they are in control. We cannot just go around shooting at people even if they are suspected renegade MNLF members," Tiglao said.

He said the military and local officials had anticipated a scenario where the rebels would take hostages.

That is why, he said, the committee that handled the crisis allowed the renegades to keep their firearms as long as they left their hostages behind when they left the city.

The crisis committee was composed of AFP Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat and presidential adviser for Mindanao Jesus Dureza.

"(At the time of the hostage crisis), the residents were really intent on arming themselves," Tiglao said.

Yesterday, Sen. Blas Ople warned the military it could be facing a three-pronged war against insurgency as a result of the renewed threat by rebels identified with Misuari.

Ople said it was clear a third front has emerged with Misuari's defiance of government authorities when he led raids on three Army outposts in Jolo, Sulu, and seized more than 100 hostages after the encounter with government troops in Zamboanga City.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines is now fighting on three fronts—against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, the New People's Army and the MNLF lost command," Ople said.

'Stretched thin'

"The military will be stretched thin with all these forces arrayed against them," he warned.

Ople said that should the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—which has a ceasefire agreement with the government—join the fray, this would mean graver danger for the country and could drain the resources of the AFP.

Ople said the government should apply the full force of the law on the renegade MNLF faction by charging them with rebellion.

He called the MNLF "lost command" a dangerous group, noting that they were allowed to keep their firearms after releasing their hostages.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said Malacañang fully backed the military's decision to allow Misuari's followers to go free in Zamboanga City.

Oreta said the government's decision to let the rebels off the hook was "highly irregular."

She said this was bolstered by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' admission that it was "not the best solution" to the crisis.

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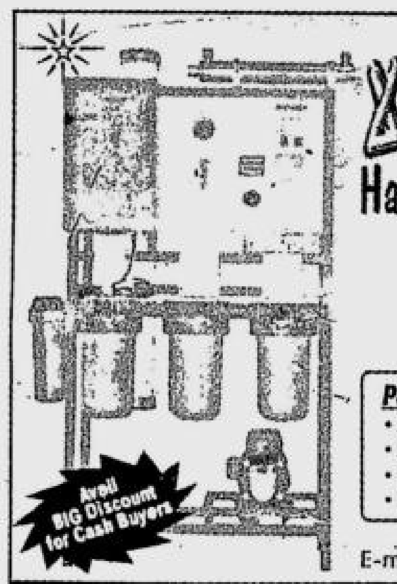

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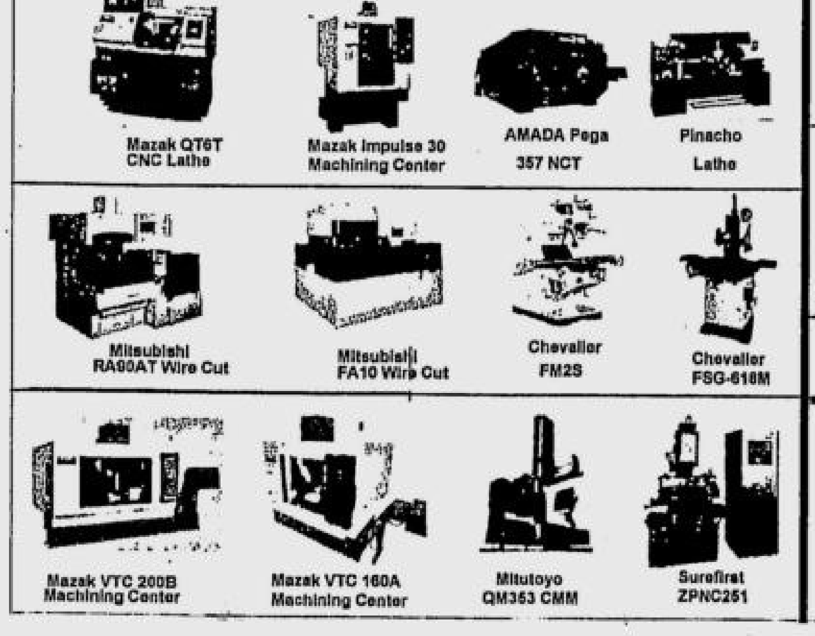

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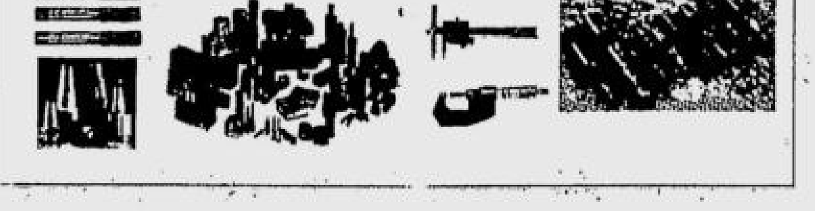

Pimentel may seek Joker's ouster from Mike A probe

BY C. BALANA

OPPOSITION senators, apparently finding committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo's pace not fast enough, have threatened to move to strip the Senate blue ribbon committee of jurisdiction over the inquiry into the alleged telecom franchise scam.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said the minority bloc would make this move if Arroyo refuses to hear the testimony of witness Pacifico Marcelo.

Pimentel said Arroyo has refused to reconvene the committee charged with investigating the allegations that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had received a P40 billion bribe in exchange for the recall of the presidential veto on two franchise bills.

The Senate minority would press for the creation of a select committee to take over the inquiry if Arroyo refuses to schedule a hearing from Dec. 10 to 14, Pimentel said.

The transfer of an investigation from one committee to another was allowed under Senate rules, he said.

Marcelo, the businessman owner of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI), one of the franchisees involved, has cleared Mike Arroyo of bribery charges but implicated President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

He alleged that the President had demanded a 51 percent share in the PCCI in exchange for the recall of her veto.

Ms Macapagal has denied Marcelo's allegations.

Sen. Blas Ople said the opposition senators would next week ask Senator Arroyo in writing to reschedule a public hearing for Marcelo's testimony.

"If he fails to heed this request, Senator Arroyo may face a resolution discharging his committee of jurisdiction over the case," Ople said.

But Senator Arroyo remained unfazed by the threat. He said Marcelo, like other witnesses, has to join the queue.

The committee was attending to many other cases, and the telecommunications franchise was just one of them, Senator Arroyo said.

The senator also said the committee would still have to review Marcelo's affidavit, adding his committee would not accept Marcelo's story "hook, line and sinker."

Senator Arroyo said he doubted the opposition senators had the required votes needed to strip his committee of jurisdiction over the inquiry.

The senator had earlier pointed to some holes in Marcelo's affidavit.

He said Marcelo did not mention his citizenship in the affidavit, which only bolstered the allegation that he was still a US citizen.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, agreeing with Senator Arroyo, said the senators had a much more pressing issue to deal with—the proposed national budget for 2002.

The Senate has been conducting marathon hearings on the proposed budget bill so it can be passed before Congress goes on a Christmas recess.

"Passing the budget at this time is more important than Marcelo. It (telecommunications investigation) can and should wait," Pangilinan said.

"I'm appealing to the minority to set aside politicking and focus on the efforts to pass the budget," he added.

Pangilinan said Marcelo would have his chance to have his testimony heard in due time.

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USMLE STEPS 1 to 3	DEC 04,	6PM	QC
USMLE STEPS 1 to 3	DEC 07,	6PM	MKT
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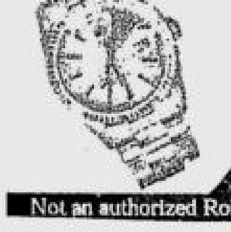
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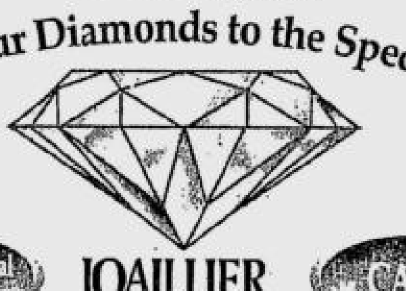
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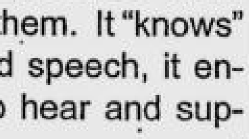
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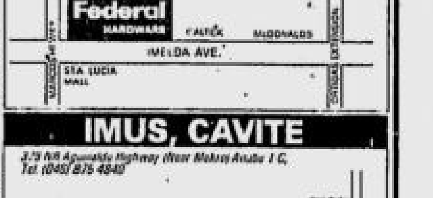
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News that makes a difference

Justice Badoy goes on sick leave

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

AFTER drawing flak for a controversial TV interview on Thursday, Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy is going on leave for health reasons beginning Monday, his daughter, Christine Marie Sanchez, said yesterday.

Badoy, 69, heads the Sandiganbayan Third Division which is hearing the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. He has been confined at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center since Thursday night, said Sanchez, who is also his executive assistant.

Sanchez said her father checked into at the hospital just to get some rest after an "asthma attack caused by stress," although she admitted he had been under sedation since his confinement.

With their father under sedation, she said, the decision to give him "at least a weeklong vacation" was made by his children. She said a doctor advised them to make the decision.

Barring any change in plans, this would be the first time Badoy will miss a hearing in the Estrada plunder trial.

Interviewed over the phone from the UERM, Sanchez said her father was taken to the hospital right after his appearance on the GMA-Channel 7 news program, "Saksi," Thursday night.

Sanchez lashed out at media entities that scoffed at her father's use of an ambulance to get to the GMA complex.

It was not true, she said, that her father was feigning sickness that day. Neither was it true that he "volunteered himself" for an interview with "Saksi" anchor, Mike Enriquez.

"The truth is Mr. Enriquez was at the Sandiganbayan earlier that day making arrangements for the interview," Sanchez said.

"He (Badoy) did not mislead the press. He was suffering from an upset stomach before he was to go to the TV station, that's why he asked for an ambulance so that his condition could be monitored along the way," she said.

Badoy's doctor, Sanchez said, advised them to let him take a vacation. Badoy will reach the retirement age of 70 in October next year.

"He will not be in court on Monday," Sanchez said.

"We are not letting him read newspapers so he can fully rest," she added, when asked her father's reaction to the negative feedback from the "Saksi" episode.

On the program, Enriquez asked Badoy about the loss of a Third Division draft ruling in the Estrada case. The document was believed pilfered by one of Badoy's staff, although this has not been proven.

In the TV interview, Badoy named Jano del Rosario, one of his stenographers, as the possible culprit. Del Rosario has vehemently denied taking the document on subsequent news programs.

Because of the TV appearance, Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag and former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Arthur Lim asked the Supreme Court to look into Badoy's behavior, describing it as "unbecoming a magistrate."

The National Bureau of Investigation has stepped into the probe of the missing document. It has subpoenaed six of Badoy's staffers who have been asked to appear at the NBI for questioning tomorrow morning.

BADOY

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OIC-CITY TREASURER

Cement workers hit 'dumping'

WORKERS from the local cement industry yesterday expressed alarm over the unabated dumping of cheap cement imports into the country, saying the practice has threatened the industry and their jobs.

Citing data from the Bureau of Customs, two labor federations representing thousands of workers in the cement industry said in a press statement that imports in the last 10 months have reached more than 2 million metric tons.

The statement was released by Carlito Ralliston, president of the Association of Democratic Labor Organizations (Adlo) and Bayani Diwa, president of the Unified Filipino Service Workers.

They said that because of the "dumping" of cheap imports, four cement manufacturers have closed and some 23,000 workers in the industry have lost their jobs.

They said that of the total imports from January to October, 1.6 million metric tons were brought in at "dumping" prices by nine importers/traders, which include seven local trading firms and two foreign-owned firms, the Taiwan Cement Corp. (TCC) and the Southern Cross Cement.

The labor organizations cited records at the Department of Trade and Industry which showed that 729,613 tons of the total shipments of the major importers in January-October was cornered by the seven local import/trading houses.

These importers, they said, have so far posted a combined profit of P364.8 million, based on a conservative estimated profit of P20 per bag or P500 per ton.

In 1999 and 2000, these cement importers shipped in more than 3 million tons of cement from Indonesia and Taiwan at landed costs of only P52 and P86 per bag, according to the customs bureau. The workers' groups said the seven members of this cartel made a killing in those two years by retailing their goods here at a high price of P137-P150 per bag, a level almost equal to the selling price of local cement.

Lawyer seeks bail for Atong

LAS VEGAS—Fugitive Charlie "Atong" Ang, the rich friend and gambling adviser of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, will ask to be freed on bail pending an extradition hearing, his lawyer said on Friday.

Ang, 43, who is wanted in the Philippines as a co-accused in the plunder case against Estrada, was arrested last Sunday at a hotel-casino here and has remained in US custody in a jail near his Las Vegas home.

He will make the bail request next week, lawyer Donald Etra said.

An extradition hearing is scheduled for Feb. 28.

Etra said Ang will fight extradition and should be freed because he wants to stay in the United States.

"He's not a flight risk—not a danger to the community," Etra said after visiting his client in jail on Friday.

"This is the type of extraordinary case in which bail should be granted," he said.

Life in danger

Etra said Ang left the Philippines in January fearing for his life, and would be in danger if he returned.

He has been living with his family in Los Angeles and Las Vegas since January.

Ang was charged along with Estrada and others in April. He is accused of receiving kickbacks on tobacco excise taxes and giving them to Estrada, according to documents filed in federal court in Las Vegas.

He is also accused of being the go-between for payoffs from illegal gambling operators.

"If he testifies for President Estrada, those in the present administration pose threats to him," the lawyer said. "If he testifies against Estrada, the pro-Estrada camp poses a threat to him."

Celebrity lawyer

Malacañang and legal circles in Manila, meanwhile, are amazed at reports that Ang was hiring US celebrity lawyer Robert Shapiro to prevent his extradition.

Legal sources said Shapiro's services could initially cost Ang some $300,000 and several hundreds of thousands to even a million dollars more as the case progresses.

Etra has reportedly announced that his client was putting up a team of top-caliber lawyers that would include Shapiro, the lawyer who headed the team that got football star OJ Simpson acquitted from charges he had murdered his wife.

"He should be very wealthy to even think of hiring Robert Shapiro," said one lawyer from a top Makati legal firm.

The lawyer confirmed that Shapiro's mere acceptance of Ang's case could already cost the ethnic Chinese businessman and Estrada crony from $200,000 to $300,000. *AP with reports from Norman Bordadora and Dona Pazzibugan*

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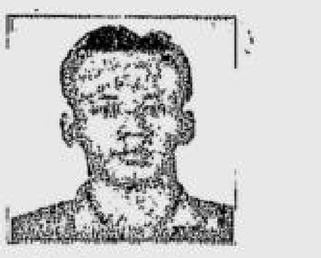

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Moreover, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement and the Contract of Confidentiality and Exclusivity entered into between Children of the World Foundation, Inc. and the abovenamed persons, the latter are prohibited from divulging any confidential or sensitive business of related information they have acquired or come into possession in connection with the said agreements, from engaging in any business activities similar to the business of the Children of the World Foundation, Inc. and from being employed in any business establishments that compete directly or indirectly with the business of Children of the World Foundation, Inc.

We shall therefore hold, jointly and severally, responsible and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law the aforenamed persons as well as any and all persons who shall cooperate with the violation of the foregoing agreement.

29 November 2001 Makati, Metro Manila

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FOUNDATION, INC.

Assisted by:

VILLANUEVA, GABIONZA & DE SANTOS
Counsel for Children of the World
Foundation, Inc.

By:

SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA , JR.

LA judge rules on wartime slave labor

LOS ANGELES—A Superior Court judge has challenged a federal court's ruling by keeping intact a Korean-American man's claims that he was forced to work for a Japanese cement company during World War II.

Judge Peter D. Lichtman's ruling Friday defies a federal court decision in September that nullified the state's slave labor law.

Attorneys for Jae Wong Jeong, 79, praised Lichtman's ruling and said it could lead to reparations for those who were forced to labor for Japanese companies during the war.

"It's a dramatic, historic and really quite courageous ruling," said Barry Fisher, an attorney for Jeong.

Lichtman wrote that it was notable that the US government did not challenge claims made by Holocaust victims and other Europeans against Germany after World War II. He said the government was acting in an "uneven manner" by acting to prevent Asian victims from seeking reparations from Japanese companies.

"This policy, if it is a policy, appears to be legally unsupportable," Lichtman wrote. "This court is greatly troubled by this approach."

The ruling counters a separate decision made by US District Judge Vaughn Walker in San Francisco. Walker ruled in September that thousands of Filipino, Chinese and Korean prisoners who claimed they were enslaved by Japanese companies had no legal redress for damages in US courts. Walker's ruling also nullified a 1999 California law that allows victims of World War II slave labor to sue multinational corporations operating in the state. *AP*

The Peace and Equity Foundation: Finding New Ways to Fight Poverty

Like many urban poor families in Metro Manila, the residents of the Manggahan Floodway have no access to potable water in their houses. They buy their water from other sources or delivery trucks – spending almost 5 to 10 times more than they normally would from a regular connection...

Barangay Chua in Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat, is one of the many communities affected by the armed conflict of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Philippine Army. Many of their residents want to rebuild their economy and support new agricultural development but have no means to do so...

Due to the current financial crisis, funds for poverty alleviation and community development projects are difficult to obtain.

The Peace and Equity Foundation was created to help.

Last November 30, 2001, CODE-NGO marked it's 10th year by launching the Peace, Equity and Access for Community Empowerment or the Peace and Equity Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit entity that will assist Philippine NGOs and people's organizations (POs) with funds to address poverty, inequity, and structural injustice in rural and urban communities. The vision and goals of the new foundation will be realized through an innovative endowment put up by CODE-NGO. The foundation will serve all accredited NGOs, cooperatives, and people's organizations with proven commitment to poverty eradication.

Representatives from civil society groups, government, and business sectors were on hand to witness the milestone event.

Moving Quickly

During the launching of the Peace and Equity Foundation on November 30, its plans and priority programs were announced. CODE-NGO explained that it had created the Foundation to provide new opportunities for organizations everywhere to expand, strengthen, and deepen its anti-poverty programs as well as help the Macapagal-Arroyo administration fulfill its promise for new and transparent politics.

Fr. Noel Vasquez, the new Foundation's Chairperson shared, "In less than a month since the fund was finalized, we already have projects moving. We realize there is an urgency regarding our country's state of poverty. We'd like to hit the ground running and begin to quickly address the needs of the poor given the resources we now have."

The Peace and Equity Foundation as a Perpetual Fund

The CODE-NGO endowment will be used to fund projects that aim to reduce poverty and improve the lives of the poor. To preserve and safeguard the fund, only the interest income and project reflows will be used. Furthermore, much of the fund corpus will be invested in treasury notes. It is estimated that the Php 1.3B fund corpus will generate an interest income of Php 100M a year for operating and program expenses.

The establishment of this fund comes at a relevant time as the international financial crisis has forced international funding agencies for our local NGOs and POs to shift priority to other countries where funds are also badly needed. Through the endowment fund, NGOs and POs can fulfill their commitment to serve the poor and promote social development.

Some of the Foundation's long-term goals are: to speed up the expansion of effective and innovative micro-level anti-poverty programs directed at rural and urban poor communities; to build a suitable policy environment at the local and national levels that will support grassroots anti-poverty programs; to strengthen civil society and build capacities of partner NGOs and POs for the sustained implementation of anti-poverty programs; and to ensure the long-term continuity of its services to the Filipino poor by preserving the original peso value of the Peace and Equity Foundation fund.

An Opportunity for Multi-Sectoral Collaboration

A unique feature of the foundation is that it creates an opportunity for business, civil society, and government to work together and become the proverbial first step towards the elimination of poverty in our nation.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees consist of members representing civil society and the basic sectors, eminent persons from the business and the academe, and two honorary members of the government. From the government, a representative from the Department of Finance and Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, will be sitting in the board.

Secretary Deles expresses high hopes for the Peace and Equity Foundation as it is making available much needed resources that government has been sorely lacking especially with the worldwide economic crisis aggravating the difficulties at the local level. She also believes it will help provide mechanisms for fine-tuning civil society participation and partnership with the government – not least of which involves the task of more strategic thinking regarding projects, giving greater consideration to quick impact on the welfare of the poor. Secretary Deles adds, "The challenge for this fund is really to make it reach those in need including the unorganized poor."

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Peace, Equity, Access for Community Empowerment Foundation

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Peace, Equity, Access for Community Empowerment Foundation Guidelines

1. Eligible Projects

The Foundation's guidelines are presently being drafted. Meanwhile, the Foundation will accept projects that:

a. respond to the problems of poverty and marginalization
b. can show measurable impact within 3 to 6 months (this means that support for the expansion of existing projects / tried "technologies" or approaches would be preferred)

2. Priority Areas

Projects in any area of the country would be accepted. However, more funds will be allocated for the priority areas of the foundation, which are the high-poverty regions of Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Mindanao, ARMM, and urban poor areas in Metro Manila.

3. Terms of Funding

Funds for microfinance / income earning projects shall be given out as loans while funds for institution / capability-building projects shall be given as grants. A project may have both components.

4. Other Information

Proponents are advised to use any proposal format commonly in use. While no maximum percentage for administration costs are set, they are also advised to minimize these to the essentials.

In the meantime, proposals may be submitted to the CODE-NGO Secretariat, 2/F CCS Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Phone Nos. 426-5938, 426-6001 locals 4624/4625. Email address: code-ngo@surfshop.net.ph

Organized in 1991 by ten of the largest NGO networks, Caucus of Development NGO Networks or CODE-NGO is the largest NGO umbrella organization comprised of twelve national NGO networks and five regional networks, representing over 2,500 NGOs and cooperatives from all over the Philippines.

The 12 network members : • Association of Foundations • National Confederation of Cooperatives • National Council for Social Development • National Secretariat of Social Action • Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies • Philippine Business for Social Progress • Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas • CODE-NGO NCR • Cordillera Network of Development NGOs and POs • Coalition for Bicól Development • Visayas Network Development NGOs • Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs

CODE NGO

As an organization of scale, CODE-NGO serves as an effective mechanism – among other things - for establishing and upholding standards for developmental work and promoting innovations in community development and in development finance.

Raising Funds To Eradicate Poverty: The CODE-NGO PEACe Bonds

Can a capital market transaction benefit the business sector, the government, as well as civil society – and in turn directly benefit the poor?

How it all began

The political and economic crisis of the last quarter of 2000 was beginning to be felt and CODE-NGO's leaders believed that the situation would only worsen for the less fortunate. As of 2000, 28.8 million Filipinos lived in poverty and desperately needed help. It was necessary to expand and speed up CODE-NGO's anti-poverty activities.

Unfortunately, funding for development activities of civil society organizations from traditional sources was beginning to dwindle. Bilateral, multilateral, and international NGO sources were shifting their priorities. Local sources of funds (such as corporate donors) were projected to decline because of the country's worsening economic situation.

The idea of creating an endowment fund to support a poverty-reduction program from the capital market was borne out of a great need that called for an "out-of-the-box" solution. CODE-NGO's leaders began meeting with investment bankers to assist them in engaging the mainstream capital market. The bankers were challenged into coming up with a realizable solution. This is where the idea for the **Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates** or **PEACe Bonds** originated.

The Concept

The idea is simple. The government's funding requirements are partly met by the Bureau of Treasury's (BTr) issuance of government securities in the form of Treasury Bills (T Bills) and Treasury Notes (T Notes). The Government Securities Eligible Dealers (GSEDs) participate in the BTR's auctions and distribute (sell) the T Bills or T Notes to the investing public.

The concept was to buy T Notes from the BTr and to resell these to the secondary market at a premium. Endowing the T Notes with certain eligibilities would enhance their marketability in the secondary market. The endowment fund would then be created from the difference in the interest rate at which the T Notes would be sold to institutional buyers in the secondary market.

An innovation proposed by the project was to issue zero-coupon bonds with a ten-year maturity that would be aptly named Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or PEACe Bonds. While zero-coupon bonds are common in other countries, it was not available in the Philippines. Zero-coupon bonds are issued at a "deep discount" to face value, do not pay interest periodically, and pay the face value (principal amount) at maturity. The yield to maturity (YTM) is guaranteed at the time of purchase.

The Journey

Armed with the simple concept of raising an endowment fund from the capital market, CODE-NGO presented the PEACe Bonds project to then Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo on March 3, 2001. Recognizing the magnitude of the poverty situation and the government's financial position, Secretary Romulo encouraged the idea of raising funds for anti-poverty projects from the private sector as the government needed all the help it could get.

CODE-NGO then presented the project to the Monetary Board and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on March 6, 2001. Convinced of the merit of the project, the Monetary Board issued Resolution No. 1545 dated June 7, 2001, granting secondary reserve eligibility to the PEACe Bonds.

The Insurance Commission also deemed the PEACe Bonds eligible as statutory / security deposits pursuant to Section 203 of the Insurance Code and as admitted assets for insurance companies.

Pursuant to BIR Ruling 020-2001, dated May 31, 2001, the PEACe Bonds are considered certificates of indebtedness and are not considered deposit substitutes. As such, they are exempt from capital gains tax and their sale, exchange, or retirement are not subject to the 20% final withholding tax imposed by the 1997 Tax Code. Also, since the PEACe Bonds have a maturity of over five years, the gains from its maturity are also tax-exempt.

On October 16, 2001, the BTr offered 10-year, zero coupon bonds in an auction that generated tendering bids totaling Php 137B. CODE-NGO participated in the auction through Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, a GSED. The BTr accepted bids that carried an interest rate of 12.75 percent.

After months of multi-sectoral planning and coordination, CODE-NGO successfully obtained a significant amount of 10-year, zero-coupon T-Notes. The purchase of the T-Notes was done through CODE-NGO's underwriter, the Rizal Commercial Banking Center (RCBC). The T-Notes, appropriately renamed Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or PEACe Bonds, were then immediately purchased by RCBC from CODE-NGO for reselling to its investors. From the sale, CODE-NGO raised Php 1.3B, which now serves as the Peace and Equity Foundation's endowment fund.

A Win-Win Situation for Everybody

Everyone comes out on top with the PEACe Bonds.

The government's borrowing cost went down to 12.75%. Zero coupon bonds give the government more flexibility in managing its debts because it has no periodic interest payments. And the successful initial auction assured the government that the local market can still be tapped for its financial requirement.

The expected funds will help in relieving some of its economic struggles especially in dealing with poverty alleviation. The Php 100M a year that will fund the anti-poverty projects is purely from the private sector.

The introduction of a new financial instrument (zero coupon bonds) will help develop a struggling Philippine capital market.

And finally, through the PEACe Bonds, an endowment fund to support poverty-reduction projects was created. The Peace and Equity fund will make available the much needed resources to help the poor.

The CODE-NGO idea is now a reality in the Peace and Equity Foundation. It is now ready to work and is open to all NGOs and POs whose projects support the foundation's goal to help eradicate poverty in the Philippines.

Rosebud: We'll win war vs drugs

BAGUIO CITY—Former narcotics undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong is determined to win the fight against illegal drugs, urging families and communities to be vigilant to combat the illegal trade in and use of drugs.

"We will win this war," said Ong, who addressed about 600 publishers, editors and reporters gathered at the Teachers Camp here for the 6th annual National Press Congress last Saturday.

Ong, who wore her trademark red cheongsam, said she arrived here by public bus with two bodyguards from the Armed Forces Intelligence Service.

Not without a hint of complaint at the apparent lack of government assistance, Ong explained that this was how she traveled to various provinces to talk to students and communities to explain the evils of illegal drugs.

Crusade

She said she was pursuing this crusade "for children and country" and also to stay alive.

"I guess God is shielding me from harm," said the controversial witness who accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson and other top national police officials of being allegedly deeply involved in the illegal drug trade.

She said she was determined to finish her campaign against Lacson even if the cases she had filed against him with the Ombudsman's office were not moving.

"I'm not backing out, I will continue fighting even if (Lacson) runs for president (in 2004)," she said.

She said the drug problem was "a question of power" because police, government officials and businessmen connive in engaging in and protecting the illegal drug trade.

Ong said businessmen from China are attracted to invest in the illegal drug trade in the Philippines because "certain (people) in power are corrupt."

"The root of the (illegal) drug problem is corruption," she said.

ONG: The root of the problem is corruption.

She said the recent seizure of illegal drug shipments in Real, Quezon, and San Narciso, Zambales, showed that both Chinese and Filipinos were involved.

"Not all of them are Filipinos. There is always one, two or three Chinese behind these seizures," she said.

Ong also noted that an increasing number of Chinese are settling in the provinces.

"There are many Chinese living in the provinces who speak neither Tagalog nor English. Who are their fronts? What kind of businesses are they engaged in? These are the big questions," she said.

Ong said this is where community vigilance was needed as she urged residents to check on the activities of strangers and foreigners in their communities.

She appealed to all Filipinos to avoid using illegal drugs so that the demand for it would go down.

She said she has been going to schools all over the country to talk about the evils of drug use.

Joining hands

"Let's join hands to walk away from drugs and make the whole country aware of it. We can do it," she said.

Noting the diminishing media coverage of stories about illegal drugs, she appealed to reporters not to ignore these and continue to report even the small stories.

"You don't have to mention my name, as long as you continuously report on illegal drugs... one drug addict can destroy 10 families, only a few people know that," she said.

She said her lecture tours had sent her to Davao, General Santos City, Digos in Davao del Sur, Dumaguete City, Iloilo City, Cebu City and most of the schools in Metro Manila—without the use of a secure vehicle.

"What kind of sacrifice does the government expect me to take?" she said.

One of her security escorts would not comment on Ong's complaints, except to stress that she was being guarded by "a lot of government personnel." *Reports from Robert Abaño, Vincent Cabreza, Dioanne Palao, Vida Curray and Alma Grace Amay, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ople seeks P40B cut in debt service

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday said he would propose to the Senate a P40-billion cut in the country's debt service for next year in order to stimulate the economy.

Ople said the amount should instead be channeled to boost agriculture and education.

He suggested that of the P40-billion cut, P20 billion shall be allocated to the construction of more schoolbuildings and the other P20 billion to farm-to-market roads.

According to Ople, the Senate had previously done this in 1995, with then Sen. Arturo Tolentino as the proponent. The amount of cut was shifted to the unprogrammed budget.

The Constitution provides for automatic appropriation for debt servicing but is silent on the percentage of the budget to be used for this purpose.

He said that most senators were amenable to a cut in debt servicing since this was one of the issues discussed in their two-day summit in Clark, Pampanga, a week ago.

In that meeting, senators agreed to identify departments and government agencies whose funds can be cut off to save money.

Gloria greets Japan on new royal baby

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday congratulated the Japanese royal couple over the birth of their new baby girl.

Her spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said the president "is very happy that the mother and child are in good health."

He said Ms Macapagal, who met Crown Princess Masako during a working visit to Japan in September, had congratulated the princess on giving birth after eight years of childless marriage to Crown Prince Naruhito.

The President is scheduled to make a state visit to Japan in March. *AFP*

Alvarez probed for graft, hailed for reforms

THE GROUP opposed to the construction of the Naia Terminal 3 claimed yesterday that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) has been directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the group's allegations against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez regarding the airport contract.

The MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators claimed that PAGC acting chair Cesar Buenaflor has already summoned Maso regarding its complaint against Alvarez.

Maso has accused Alvarez of a "personal agenda and business interest" in the contract for the construction and management of the $350-million Naia Terminal 3 awarded to Philippine Air Terminals Corp. (Piatco).

The summons, sent Nov. 7, gave the complainants 20 days to present evidence in support of their complaint against Alvarez.

The PAGC, the corruption watchdog agency of the Office of the President, started its preliminary inquiry last Thursday to determine probable cause to indict the transport secretary.

The transport department, meanwhile, claimed that it was enjoying "a high level of public acceptance" because of the reforms and policies introduced by Alvarez.

Spokesperson Ramon Cuyco in a press statement that the innovations have been "finding their way to the targeted beneficiaries. This is the reason why private service operators and the consumers are appreciative of these reforms."

Cuyco cited the last nationwide Pulse Asia survey in which Alvarez and the Department of Transportation and Communication registered favorable marks.

In the survey, conducted between Sept. 22 and Oct. 4, Alvarez had a net approval rating of plus 19, ahead of many other Cabinet members.

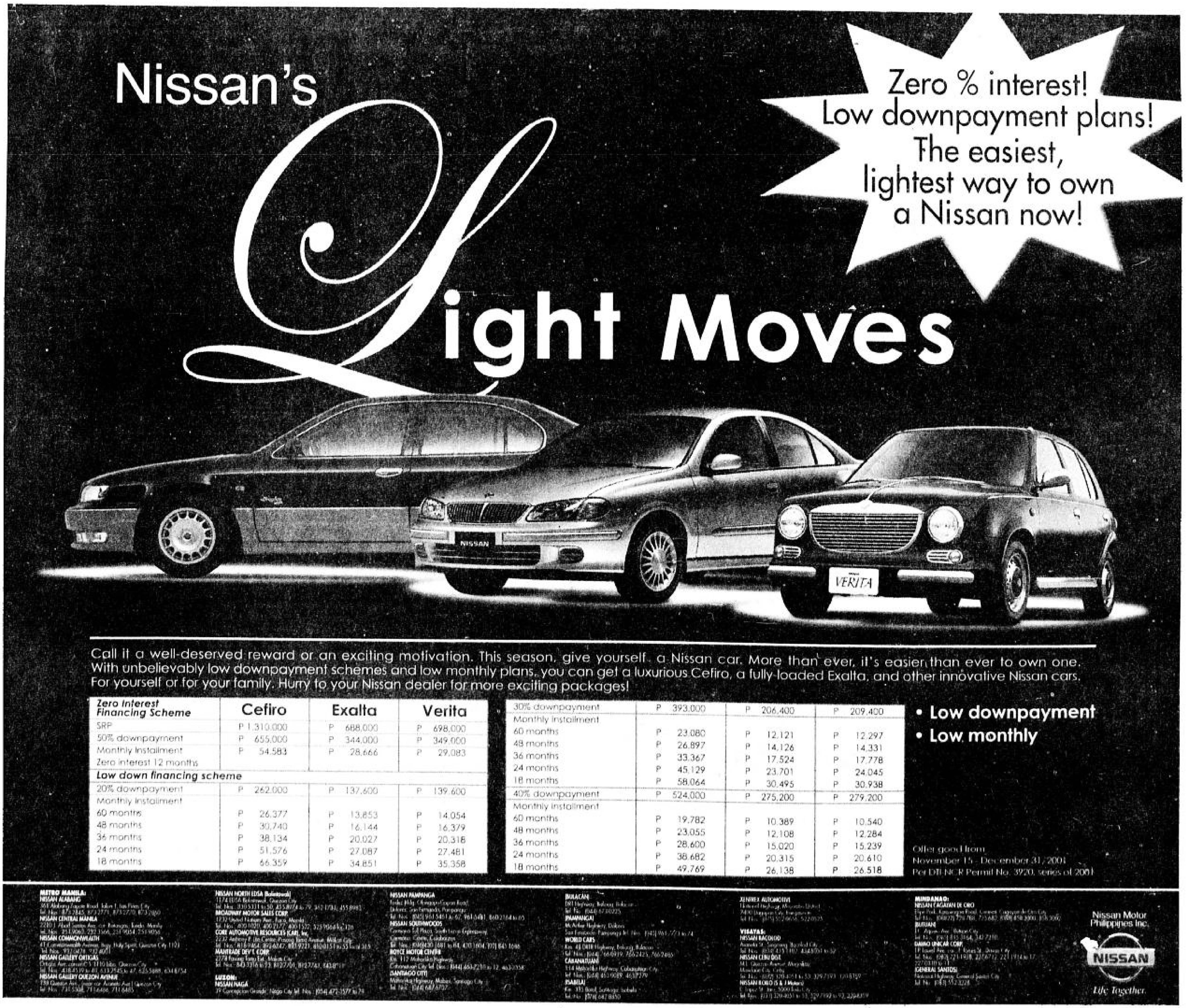
Cuyco said Alvarez's plus 19 NAR was an improvement over the plus 16 NAR he got in the June 2001 survey.

Similarly the DOTC had a high NAR of plus 40 in the last survey an increase of plus 7 over the June survey.

Among the reforms that Alvarez is pursuing is the rationalization and modernization of the shipping industry and the continued improvement of the communications sector, particularly the telecommunications industry.

Recently, Alvarez launched a package of measures to relieve traffic congestion and air pollution in Metro Manila in time for the Christmas holiday rush.

ALVAREZ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20% downpayment	P 262,000	P 137,600	P 139,600
Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 26,377	P 13,853	P 14,054
48 months	P 30,740	P 16,144	P 16,379
36 months	P 38,134	P 20,027	P 20,318
24 months	P 51,576	P 27,087	P 27,481
18 months	P 66,359	P 34,851	P 35,358
30% downpayment	P 393,000	P 206,400	P 209,400
Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 23,080	P 12,121	P 12,297
48 months	P 26,897	P 14,126	P 14,331
36 months	P 33,367	P 17,524	P 17,778
24 months	P 45,129	P 23,701	P 24,045
18 months	P 58,064	P 30,495	P 30,938
40% downpayment	P 524,000	P 275,200	P 279,200
Monthly Installment			
60 months	P 19,782	P 10,389	P 10,540
48 months	P 23,055	P 12,108	P 12,284
36 months	P 28,600	P 15,020	P 15,239
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Life Together.

Gloria meets Nida's daughter in private

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met with the daughter of slain actress Nida Blanca in Malacañang yesterday morning.

Kaye Torres was accompanied by National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco during the meeting, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Except for a photo release of Ms Macapagal with Torres, no details were given about the meeting, which began at 11 a.m.

Tiglao said it was a "private meeting."

Torres asked for the meeting which the President "immediately" granted, Tiglao said.

Ms Macapagal on Friday canceled her scheduled visit to Baguio City and the Cordilleras yesterday that should have lasted until late afternoon.

Her revised schedule of activities yesterday only consisted of a Mass at 8 a.m. and the 11 a.m. meeting with Torres and Wycoco.

"Kaye wanted to see the President. The (request for a) meeting was immediately granted. But the conversation was private," Tiglao told reporters later.

"What I know is that Kaye wanted to speak to the President with Wycoco. Probably her views on the murder of her mother (were discussed). But it's up to the President and Wycoco if they want to disclose (what was discussed)," he added.

It was the first time Ms Macapagal met with Torres, who is based in the US.

Nida's fan

The President, who had admitted to being a fan of Blanca since she was young, had earlier vowed to bring her murderer/s to justice.

The Department of Justice last week dismissed the murder charges filed by the Philippine National Police against Blanca's husband Rod Strunk.

This was after the "confessed" killer, Philip Medel Jr. claimed before DOJ prosecutors that policemen tortured him into admitting the crime and linking Strunk.

Ms Macapagal was supposed to distribute livelihood assistance in a new town in the Cordilleras and afterwards address the 6th National Press Congress in Baguio City.

Although it was not on her schedule, Malacañang reporters were earlier made to expect that the President will drop by the wake of actress Maria Theresa Carlson in Laoag City.

Asked why the visit to Carlson's wake was canceled, Tiglao said he also did not know.

"She has a tight schedule. She couldn't go to Baguio because she has other meetings," he said. Asked what these other meetings were, he said: "She wanted to be briefed about what's happening in Mindanao."

Lipa hosts National Youth Day

THE ARCHDIOCESE of Lipa is hosting the celebration of National Youth Day 2001, which ends today, the first Sunday of Advent. More than 5,000 delegates from all over the country are participating in the three-day gathering at the De La Salle Centrum, in Lipa City.

The theme of this year's celebration is taken from the words of Jesus Christ: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me." The young delegates discuss this theme at daily sessions.

Multiawarded film director Laurice Guillen, her husband, award winning actor Johnny Delgado, and their two daughters will share their own faith experiences during the final session this morning.

The gathering will also feature musical performances by young singer Carol Banawa, Gregorian chant champion Seraphim Choir, and Sining Kumintang of Batangas. Fr. Mimo Perez composed a theme song titled "We'll Follow You" for the event.

The Archdiocese of Lipa is headed by the Most Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales.

Manila Water
20-Hour Water Service Interruption in Pasig City and low water pressure in Mandaluyong City

When: December 4, 2001, Tuesday, from 3:50 am to 11:50 pm

Affected areas: No water in Valle Verde 1 to 5, Ugong Proper and portion of C-5 from Ortigas Avenue to J. Borris St. Low water pressure in Lakeview, Kawilihan, Capitol 8, Oranbo, portion of Banaag, Hagdang Bato, Barangka Itaas/Ibaba, Highway Hills, and Addition Hills.

Service improvement: Manila Water will interconnect a line booster at Maybunga, Pasig City to optimize the operation of the Pasig, Makati and Fort Bonifacio pumping stations which will improve water distribution in the influence areas.

Residents of the affected areas are advised to store enough water for their use prior to the schedule of the water interruption.

For the latest update, please call our Customs Call Center Hotline at 1627.

December 2, 2001 -- Inquirer

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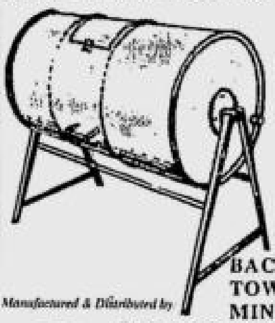

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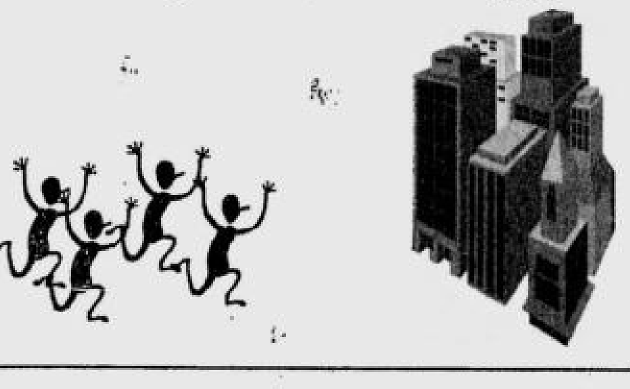

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OPINION

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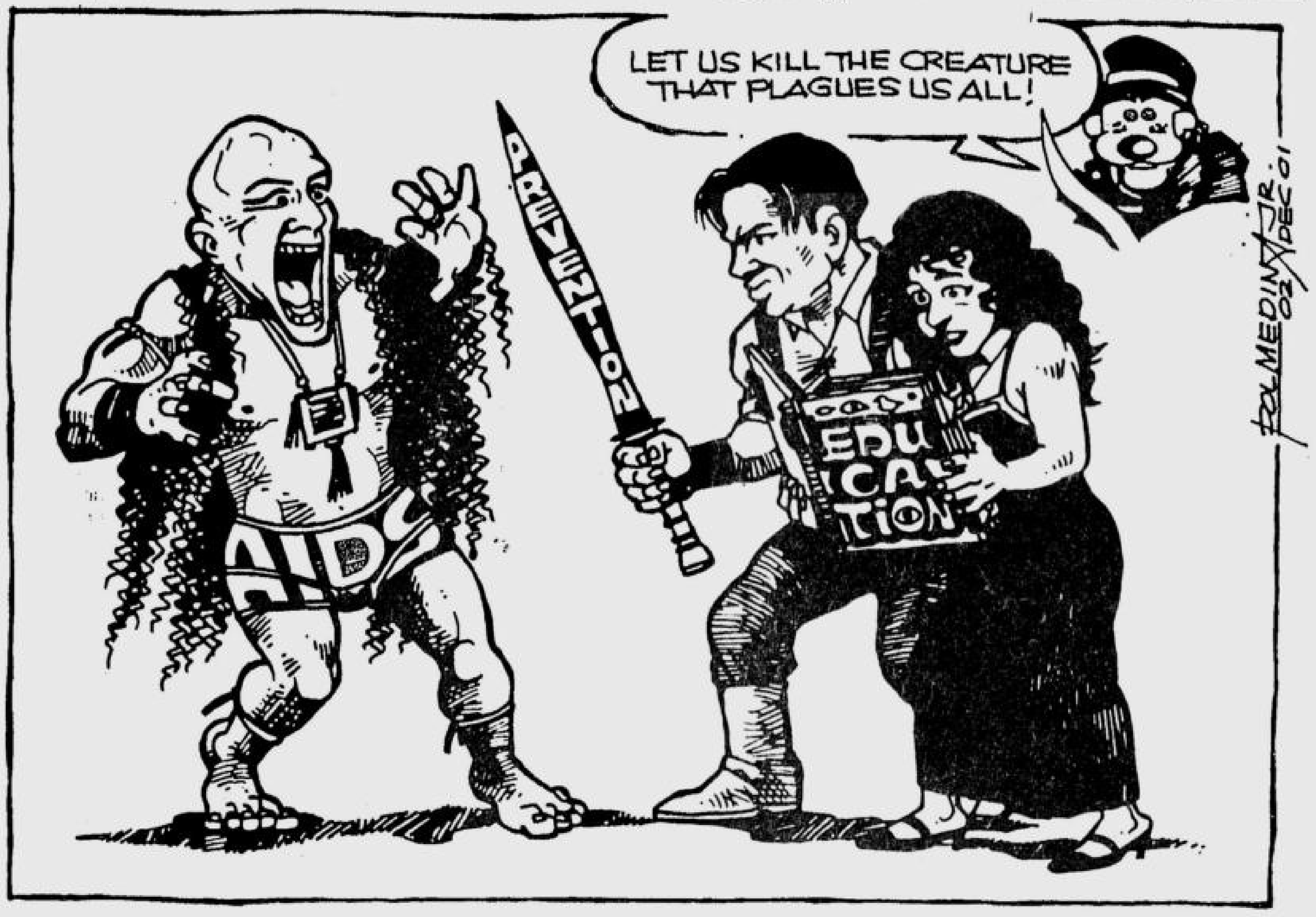

The weakest link?

EDITORIAL

THE SUPREME Court's order relieving Francis Garchitorena as presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan, effective yesterday, is decisive action of a sort not usually associated with the judiciary.

Because much of its work is reactive—it can act only when a case is before it—the judiciary has often been called the weakest branch of government. Of course, this kind of thinking has always been erroneous, but last Wednesday's decision shows that this mentality is not only a mistake; it may be the exact opposite of the truth.

The Court's decision is one of relief, not suspension or dismissal. Garchitorena will continue to sit in the anti-graft court, only without any administrative responsibilities. The order simply allows Garchitorena the time to clear his backlog of cases—in the words of the court decision, "so that he may devote himself exclusively to decision writing, until the backlog of cases...are finally decided." As sanctions go, the ruling is hardly the administrative equivalent of capital punishment.

And yet the decision is a milestone just the same. It is based on a straightforward appreciation of the facts and a forthright application of clear principles. The basic facts, the most telling statistics, came from Garchitorena himself, who submitted a report to the high court on Sept. 27, 2000 detailing "all cases pending decision or with motion for reconsideration pending resolution." Of the anti-graft court's five divisions, the first division which Garchitorena chaired accounted for over four-fifths of all pending cases.

As of September 2000, the second division had a backlog of five cases; the third division, chaired by the controversial Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, had 12; the fourth division had 2; and the fifth division, 52. In contrast, the first division chaired by Garchitorena sagged under the sheer weight of an overloaded docket; it had a pile-up of 341 pending cases.

Of the total, at least 73 cases had remained unassigned—that is, they had been considered submitted for resolution but were unresolved, because the basic management task of delegating the writing of the opinion had unaccountably been neglected.

In at least one instance, the Sandiganbayan's failure to resolve a case stretched over 10 years, finally forcing the Supreme Court to allow the case to be dismissed.

The main principle that Garchitorena violated is so basic it has been reduced to an axiom: Justice delayed is justice denied.

In its order, written by Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo and concurred in by 13 justices, the Court said as much: "unreasonable delay of a judge in resolving a case amounts to a denial of justice, bringing the Sandiganbayan into disrepute, eroding the public faith and confidence in the judiciary."

In relieving him of his administrative tasks, the high court deliberately gave Garchitorena the time and chance he needed to write the decisions that had been assigned to him. "(We) reiterate," the high court said, "that decision-making is the most important of all judicial functions and responsibilities." But the Supreme Court also relied on another principle. Less felicitously, we can render it as follows: there are no sacred cows. By any measure, the presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan is a high-ranking government official. In terms of prestige, the office is just below an appointment to the Supreme Court itself. Indeed, for the politically inclined, the position of chief judge of a high-profile court may be even more advantageous. The decision to remove Garchitorena from this post, therefore, strikes at the heart of conventional wisdom: that except for cases of flagrant immorality or brazen graft, high-ranking officials—the "big fish," in the language of the street—are practically untouchable.

It is in this context that the argument may be made that the judiciary may actually be the least weak of the three branches of government, at least in these parlous times. The Supreme Court's decision relieving Garchitorena, taken in the context of other decisions it has made, is the clearest demonstration this year yet of the resolute exercise of political will.

Let's stop all this pussy-footing

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE SUPREME Court having upheld the Plunder Law with a 10-4 vote, there's no more reason to delay Joseph Estrada's trial. His own lawyers should know that the chances of the ruling being reconsidered and reversed are practically nil. The popular reaction to the decision has been favorable. It was different in the Mark Jimenez case, where the public backlash forced the high tribunal to retreat from its original stance favoring the erstwhile Erap crony.

Of course, Estrada's counsel will still try to use every other roadblock to prevent his eventual conviction. They have boasted that they can delay this by at least five years, and they have been doing well so far. But their principal contention that the Plunder Law was unconstitutional has taken the wind out of their sails and they must now limp back to shore. Their other excuses—like visiting an aged mother or catching up on lost sleep—have only revealed their pettiness. They have provoked much public impatience and contempt with the way they are trifling with the administration of justice.

His lawyer's antics having been discredited at every turn, Estrada would now fall back on another plea. He says he is sick. He has an eye cataract and cyst that may leave him blind and his knees are killing him besides making him bowlegged. He needs immediate medical attention, and he must get it, not here in his own native land, but abroad.

By his current petition with the Sandiganbayan, he is implying that our local doctors are not good enough for him. He can only get the best treatment from the American doctors, which is why he must go the United States. He should be allowed to avail himself of their superior services as soon as possible. Our own specialists are only second-rate physicians to whom he cannot entrust the cure of his "life-threatening" afflictions.

Erap denies the implication, of course, and says our own doctors are all right but not as good as their American colleagues. Moreover, our hospitals do not have the same equipment and other facilities that can insure his better treatment in the United States.

So first he insults our doctors and now he insults our hospitals. But most of all, he insults our intelligence.

Far be it for me to compare myself to Joseph Estrada, for obvious personal reasons. There are many differences between us over which I am glad and proud. But there is at least one similarity we share, and that is our cataract problem. We are different in this regard because I chose to solve it here whereas Erap feels he has to go to the United States because he prefers foreign eye experts.

Lately, however, he has agreed to be operated on in this country provided this is done in a hospital other than the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where he is presently confined. He was transferred there precisely in the interests of his health, but he finds its accommodations unsatisfactory. He also wants to remain in that other hospital until he shall have fully recovered, presumably after weeks of convalescence, from what is actually only a minor surgery.

Anyone who has undergone a cataract operation knows there's really nothing to it. Some civic societies have sponsored mass cataract operations in the rural areas, and they have not received a single prima donna complaint. Being operated on for a cataract is no big deal except to our former action star, who used to demolish make-believe villains on the screen. Now our fastidious real-life hero, who liked to eat food with his fingers as long as the cameras were trained on him, is flinching at make-believe germs.

I had a cataract operation last July, performed by Dr. Leonardo R. Mangubat, a well known EENT specialist, at a local hospital. I entered the hospital at 11 a.m. and was given some pills to prepare me for the procedure. I was wheeled into the operating room at about 1 p.m. and by 2 p.m. my cataract was gone. Dr. Mangubat discharged me at 3 p.m. after prescribing some medicine. I didn't even have to stay in the hospital overnight. My doctor, who is not a foreign specialist, did an excellent job and my sight has vastly improved.

My wife underwent two knee operations, the first in 1995 and the second last year. Both were performed at a local hospital by Dr. Liberato A.C. Leagogo Jr., a prominent orthopedic surgeon esteemed by his peers. We did not have to secure from abroad the prosthetics needed for the kneecap replacement; the equipment was available locally, and at less cost. Mrs. Cruz had suffered intense pain because of her ailment, but she's much better now as a result of the surgery. There was no hitch at all in either operation, and she is perfectly satisfied with both.

We didn't have to go to the United States to be cured by foreign doctors. We were not wrong in trusting our own doctors, who fully justified our confidence in them.

The pretense of the Erap lawyers that he needs prosthetics not available here is another feeble deception. Whatever is available in the United States is available here provided you have the money like Estrada, who has oodles of it. Importing that costly equipment is more practical than the patient himself going to America to be fitted with that mysterious gadget that must be worth its weight in gold. Obviously, Erap has more important plans in mind than the straightening of his crooked legs.

The suspicion of many people is that Erap is willing to spend thousands of dollars to go to the United States so he can flee from our jurisdiction and never return to face the charges against him. Escaping the punishment of our laws for his heinous offenses is worth the millions of pesos he is willing to spend on the pretext of seeking medical attention abroad. This is too obvious a deception that even his fanatic *bakya* supporters cannot justify with a straight face.

I am certain that the Sandiganbayan will not allow itself to be duped by this latest *pakulo* of Erap and his counsel. It would be the height of injustice—not to say stupidity—if Joseph Estrada is allowed to fly the coop and find asylum in a foreign land where he can thumb his nose at the government he has tricked and the people he has deceived. His lawyers deserve equal scorn, if not more serious obloquy, for orchestrating such a despicable scheme.

The Supreme Court has held that not only the accused but the government as well is entitled to the right to a speedy trial. Let us put a stop to the interminable pussy-footing in the cases of People of the Philippines versus Joseph Ejercito Estrada and place him behind bars, where he belongs.

'Game ka na ba?'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

AS little children, whenever the moon was full, we would play hide and seek wherein the one who was "it" had to count 1-2-3-4...while the rest looked for a place to hide. He would keep calling out "Game *na*?" and the rest would scamper away shouting "Not yet!" until finally the "it" shouts out with finality, "Game *na*!" Whether you were ready or not, that was it. That was the final call. No more extension. No more exceptions. It was really and literally game *na*.

* * *

The Gospel of today, the first Sunday of Advent, reminds us of the finality and the suddenness of death: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day the Lord will come." (Mt. 24, 37-44) The message is simple and clear: Be ready, be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

If the Lord called you today, would you be ready? Not yet? How many years already have you been saying, "Not yet, Lord!" Do not postpone your conversion. The Lord may call you sooner than you think or imagine. Game *ka na ba*?

* * *

Let's face it, none of us will leave this world alive. There is no other exit from this world but death. No matter how long the expressway, you still will have to come to the tollgate. If you have an e-pass (eternity pass) you will go through in a breeze. If all your life you have been loaded with cash and coupons of misconduct and violations, you will have to go through the long line where the exact toll will be demanded of you. So, why don't you prepare for an easy and even toll-free exit now? Set things straight with your God and with your neighbor, and death will send you straight into the home of our Heavenly Father.

* * *

It is not easy to let go of our loved ones in death. Even now, I still wish my father were still alive. The pain is never really gone. We just learn to cope with the loss and the pain as time goes by.

But what is never gone is the fact that we too will follow, and that it is just really a matter of time. That being the case, let us continue to pray for the grace of a happy death. Let us ask the Lord today for "three grants" when we leave this world: Grant that I will be ready (no mortal sin); grant that I have already done my mission; grant that those I leave behind will not be too heavily burdened by my leaving. Amen.

* * *

We are now in the season of Advent, a time for preparation for the coming of Christ. It is the time for renewal and new beginnings. A fresh start. I like this time of the year when there is much expectation and hope. Even the fields are filled with rice ready for harvesting. The weather is also cooler, and somehow people are more pleasant and more cheerful. In spite of the difficult times we are in, let us not belittle Christmas. Let us not stifle the Christmas spirit. And let us not be cynical about love. Let us give Christmas a chance.

* * *

This Saturday, Dec. 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Let us consecrate to Mama Mary our lives, our families, our country and our people, and pray for world peace. Remember that when a child is afraid, he runs to his mother. But when a child is in danger, it is the mother who runs to the child. Rest assured Mother Mary will never abandon us, even if we abandon her.

* * *

See you at Riverbanks, Marikina, this Saturday. We will have Mass at 8 a.m., followed by a living rosary headed by the XVDs (ex-SVD seminarians, headed by Fiscal Josephus Asis with Bobby Alvarez) and Oasis of Love members headed by Christopher de Leon and the Marikina City First Women's Core Group with Mayor Maria Lourdes Carlos Fernando. It is our way of saying thank you to Mama Mary for her motherly care, and to ask her intercession for our country and for world peace.

* * *

Dec. 8 is also the 80th birthday of my mother, Concepcion Muñoz Orbos, a simple woman with simple dreams whose whole lifetime has been filled with prayer and love. She always told us, her children, that her greatest desire is that we all live meaningful and grateful lives. Her greatest joy, she said, is that we all go to heaven at the end of our earthly life. Through the years, Mama has always remained simple and focused. For her, life is a mission, and heaven is the final destination.

Isn't that what advent is all about, a focusing on the basics in life? Mama has always been a living advent, so full of hope and expectation, and a living Christmas, so full of joy and love.

Happy 80th birthday, Mama!

* * *

When was the last time you saw the moon? There's a beautiful moon out these days. Take time to see the moon and be reminded of God's gentle presence in our busy and often troubled world. Let the radiance of the moon be a source of hope and inspiration for us. Look up. There is hope. There is God. Like the gentle moonlight, may the grace of God fall gently upon us all especially this Advent and this Christmas season.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, grant that when your final call comes, I'll be ready and be really game na. Amen.

Desperate for good news

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

> A good news section or its equivalent may be an idea whose time has come. The paper that picks it up will do the country a great service and perhaps strike a gold mine in the process

THE CHRISTMAS lights are on. No sooner were Halloween and Nov. 1 over when out came the ornaments. With already the longest Christmas season, here we are, hurrying the Yuletide spirit to please come, quick. Deliberately we close our eyes and inhale to feel if Christmas is already in the air. So what if the times are threatening? We will walk through the malls to induce the feeling of Christmas.

No, Filipinos in these perilous times are not crass materialists sunk in the commercialism of Christmas; not thoughtless people who do not care for the poverty and suffering around us. We care and all of us suffer this worst of times. We are just prodding Christmas to lighten our lives.

We are desperate for good news. Now and then, like shoots pushing out of a stubborn earth, letters to the editor plead for good news. "Isn't there anything good happening in our country?" "Can't you publish more positive news?" "I've stopped reading the papers," said a friend, "and I feel better."

Of course, there is good news but they are given less or inferior space, choked by bad news or not covered or illustrated as extensively as, say, another society wedding. (*Hija, nagbayad 'yan.*) For example, last Nov. 20, the Supreme Court confirmation of the Plunder Law was dramatically and significantly good news but all that the "SC rules 10-4-1 plunder law constitutional" got was the "skyline," with Nur Misuari and Nida Blanca (again) dividing the banner headlines between them. Without that decision, Erap's ouster, the best good news of 2001, could have grown wings and flown out the window.

Three factors work against launching an emphatic drive for good news. The first one is lame. This is the argument for realism. Good is as real as bad; we all know that. We are not being naively romantic or idealistic by presenting good news more fully. And good men are as real as evil men. On the other hand, bad news tends to obliterate good news. And "stark realism," the seamy side harboring rape and robbery, etc., is only half of realism. So, who's being unrealistic?

The second is the most compelling. Will good news make money? Some broadsheets have a secret or not-so-secret child of a tabloid, not for love of tabloids, such as they are, but for money. If broadsheets must be veiled panderers of sensationalism, they might as well compensate with attractive good news. When experts hit the magic packaging formula, "good news" could succeed. Who for example ever thought that Reader's Digest, a feel-good, little magazine would make it big?

The third factor seems the trickiest. It's the contradiction between what we claim to want and what we do. How is it that while we hanker for good news and bewail the prevalence of bad news, we are drawn to the latter and lap it up from beginning to end? Is bad news more attractive? Has it become a habit? Is bad news better written than good news?

The attraction to bad news isn't such a mystery. To a great extent, media created that. Frontally and subliminally we are fed with a diet of bad news. Tabloids regularly serve a buffet of gore, sex and crime, such that the evil around us seems actually to balloon. Is this menu what we want or is it what we are made to want?

Emily Cabrera of McCann Erickson bats for the opposite: reporting the good can "create this good you are looking for." We must create another culture and we don't want it dirty and violent. We're forming a people and we don't want us ignorant and miserable. We're building a nation and we don't want it corrupt and unstable.

Play up every political battle the people have won, every signal victory of our resistance (remember any?). Seek out the good man or outcome or event that lurks behind or accompanies every bad deed. Update us on investigations of important cases and assure us they aren't dead. Single out really good men and women, dead or alive, VIP or not; every effort to put this country on its feet—and no spinners, please. Their exposure, sustained on a given tone, can certainly create a culture that can make us proud of this country.

The endeavor is nothing less than building a nation, another function incidentally of a good paper. This is one big reason why a good news section or its equivalent may be an idea whose time has come. The paper that picks it up will do the country a great service and perhaps strike a gold mine in the process. What can good writing, design, research, human interest, not do?

Asuncion David Maramba is a book editor, retired professor and occasional journalist.

Next frontier in US 'war on terror'

FEATURE

Pete Harrison

LONDON—Playground of smugglers, pirates and perhaps even worse, the laissez-faire world of shipping could be the next frontier in the United States' war on terrorism.

Free trade is the mantra of international shipping, but it is rapidly becoming apparent that security has been sacrificed in the quest for speed and economy, industry analysts say.

"Shipping is the unprotected belly of America," said one maritime security expert, a sentiment shared by the US Coast Guard (USCG). "We must change our assumptions underlying maritime security," USCG commandant Adm. James Loy told a meeting last week at the United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO). "What we saw on Sept. 11 was new: hijackers taking over commercial flights for the sole purpose of turning them into human guided weapons of mass destruction. We must translate that thought pattern and recognize the vulnerability of our maritime environment."

The USCG is providing the thrust—and some of the finance—for negotiations to tighten global maritime security, and as with the broader war on terror it has been strongly backed. "The support has been overwhelming and, I venture to say, unanimous," Adm. Paul Pluta, the US Coast Guard's assistant commandant for maritime safety, told Reuters.

Maritime security experts warn that US coastal cities are wide open to attack from the sea. Fuel-laden tankers could be seized and used as floating missiles, or any one of tens of thousands of shipping containers shuttled into the country each day could contain a nuclear device.

The United States relies heavily on shipping to import nearly half of the 19.5 million barrels of oil it consumes each day, and to carry nearly all of the 90 million tons of grain it exports each year.

Since Sept. 11, the USCG has stepped up patrols of "critical national infrastructure," such as ports, oil terminals and coastal nuclear power stations, said Pluta. Approaching ships must give 96 hours notice and are often boarded and escorted into port.

Ships' crews themselves are screened as a potential threat. The Philippines—home of the militant group Abu Sayyaf—is the world's biggest crew supplier, while Indonesia is home to numerous radical Muslim groups and is the world's second biggest crew supplier.

"On Sept. 10, the day before the tragic event, the US Coast Guard spent one percent of its operating budget on maritime and port security," said Loy. "Today we spend 57 percent—that's fundamental change."

To be totally secure, the whole industry may have to undergo a radical overhaul.

Pluta pointed to reports that an associate of Osama bin Laden had been found entering Italy in a shipping container as proof that security needed beefing up not just in the United States, but across the globe. The detained Egyptian national had been carrying return air tickets to Canada and fake aircraft mechanic's certificates.

Containers are rarely inspected on their journey, and provide easy cover for smugglers to transport drugs, weapons and people. Shipping experts say just 2 percent of shipping containers entering the United States are inspected.

The weakness of inspection regimes is illustrated by Drug Enforcement Agency estimates that about 90 percent of cocaine shipments to the United States get through untouched. The US Coast Guard seized a record 62,730 kilos of cocaine this year, but estimates it was "just the tip of the iceberg."

Pluta said the United States was well down the road to sealing its sea borders, but that some initiatives would take longer than others. In particular, the United States wants to introduce a global "chain of custody" for the world's 15 million shipping containers, so someone somewhere can always be held responsible for their contents.

"The container issue is a particularly difficult one," said Pluta. Equally, pooling security information between governments and the private sector could prove tricky.

The IMO plans to meet three times in 2002 to discuss maritime security. The first session in February will be partly funded by the United States and is seen as vital to preventing further attacks.

"Sept. 11 happened because we lost awareness of the signals and events very observable in the aviation domain," said Loy. "Given the vulnerability of our vessels, ports and waterways, we must concentrate on regaining awareness of our maritime domain." *Reuters*

Heroes for a nation that cannot remember

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NOTHING more powerfully communicates the self-understanding of a nation than the identity of its heroes. We first teach the history of our country to our children by telling them about the lives of our heroes. Our heroes' personal sacrifices mirror the nation's own suffering, and their hopes define the nation's moral identity.

A nation that is secure in its identity builds monuments and memorials to its heroes, and tells future generations: "Be like them." It is a testimony to the contested nature of our recent history that, while our nation has not been lacking in heroes, the Philippine state itself has been incapable of giving them official recognition.

Thus, to this day, our annual celebration of National Heroes Day revolves around the figures of Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio, as if the history of the Filipino nation ended with our liberation from Spain. A shockingly large number of Filipinos do not know that we fought a war with America. Many unsung heroes perished in that struggle. They have not been properly honored. Our people also fiercely resisted the Japanese occupation in the 1940s, and many died heroic deaths in the process. But we have not told our children who they are.

One of the most interesting places in Washington, D.C. is the Vietnam War Memorial where the names of American soldiers who fought and died in Vietnam are etched on a magnificent granite wall. The nation celebrates their heroism without reservation, even though the American public's attitude toward the Vietnam War has changed dramatically over the years. The memorial makes no attempt to explain or justify that war.

The local version of that memorial wall is the Wall of Remembrance that the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation has put up on a corner lot along Quezon Avenue and Edsa in Quezon City. Unveiled on Bonifacio Day, Nov. 30, 1992, the wall honored 65 martyrs and heroes who died in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship. Every year thereafter, more names have been added to the list, including those who survived the martial law regime but died shortly after.

Only a handful of these names belong to well-known figures. This year, the names of nationalist historian Renato Constantino, who fought the dictatorship and gave a whole generation of Filipino students a sense of nation through his writings, and that of business leader Jaime V. Ongpin, who spoke up against Marcos when almost everyone else in the business community chose silence, were added to the wall.

The rest are those of simple men and women, many of them very young, who chose to live dangerously for their country so that future generations may live securely. No one, outside their families and circle of friends, would know they even existed if their names were not written on the wall.

One such martyr is Manuel C. Bautista, who was born in the slums of Quezon City, but managed to go to the University of the Philippines at Los Baños on a scholarship. He was an officer in the student government and became a leader of the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan (SDK). He was about to graduate with an economics degree when he joined the underground movement in 1972. Arrested in 1973, he escaped with 13 other prisoners from Camp Vicente Lim after two months in detention, and rejoined the underground in the Quezon-Bicol area. He died in an encounter with government soldiers in 1976. He was 30 years old.

Last Thursday, Nov. 29, 2001, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation read a citation for him and engraved his name on the wall. No one from his family came to hear the citation (the foundation could not locate any of his close relatives). But, no longer will he remain anonymous.

Three other students, all from the UP, were recognized for their martyrdom. They were Jennifer K. Cariño of Baguio City, Armando D. Palabay of La Union, and Jessica M. Sales of Quezon City.

Jennifer was a science scholar at UP Baguio when she decided to drop out of school to become a full-time activist in the Cordillera region. Under threat of being arrested, she went underground in 1972. She was then seven months pregnant. She was 26 when she died in 1976. Last Thursday, the baby she named Malaya whom Jennifer left in the care of her parents when she was just 2, came to sing a song for her mother. She is a medical doctor.

With his elder brother Romulo, Armando Palabay became radicalized when he was just in high school. At UP, where he took up economics, he joined the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) and became a veteran of the First Quarter Storm. He went underground in 1972 and did organizing work among the Itnegs and Tinggians of Abra. Armando was only 21 when he was killed in an encounter along the Abra River in November 1974.

Jessica graduated cum laude with a social science degree in 1972. For five years she taught sociology and political science at the UP Manila and UP Los Baños while pursuing a master's degree in rural sociology. She was a leader of the Kapisanan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma), a teachers' organization opposed to the dictatorship. In July 1977, while attending a meeting in Makati with six of her friends, she disappeared and was never heard from again. She was only 26.

We are not surprised that the Memorial Wall on which the names of these modern Filipino heroes and martyrs are engraved is wholly the initiative of a private foundation. A government that has had no will to jail human rights violators under martial law or to seize the wealth plundered by the Marcoses and their cronies cannot be expected to know and remember the heroes and martyrs who fought the dictatorship.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Blowing away the tobacco industry's smoke screen

COMMENTARY

Shigeru Omi, M.D., Ph.D.

IN AN INTERCONNECTED world, we're seeing how globalization may help or hinder our lives. Take the case of the tobacco industry. It is using innovative means to bypass fledgling government tobacco control policies, particularly in developing countries. It is riding a wave to open regional trade in East Asia and the Pacific.

Under trade agreements among the 10 member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), taxes and import restrictions will be markedly reduced from locally grown and regionally manufactured products to increase the flow of goods, labor and wealth across borders. As a result, the international tobacco industry is relocating production to Asean countries to maximize access to countries with undeveloped tobacco-control measures; to keep their product prices low; and to cuddle up to some enticing markets, including Southeast Asia and China.

So why should we care? Because the human impact of tobacco use is overwhelming. One person dies every 32 seconds in the Western Pacific Region from tobacco-related causes. The region, which is home to 1.6 billion people, has had the greatest increase in tobacco users worldwide and the greatest potential for more death and disability.

Globally, if tobacco use continues at current trends, 500 million people alive today will die from tobacco-related causes. More than half of them are only teenagers now. To make matters worse, potential victims, many living in developing countries, will never know what hit them since they have little or no access to information on the health risks of tobacco use. In China, for example, 61 percent of smokers questioned in 1996 thought tobacco did them "little or no harm."

Finding new customers in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific is an attractive option for the industry, particularly as it adjusts to shrinking North American and Western European markets. Take Philip Morris, for example. The company recently opened a $300-million cigarette production facility in Laguna, Philippines. Under an Asean agreement, products manufactured in member countries with a high proportion of locally grown ingredients, will be exempt from excise taxes. For example, cigarettes now manufactured in the Philippines will become a local Asean product if at least 40 percent of the tobacco used is from the Philippines. This means they will be exempt from taxation when traded among other Asean member countries. This lowers or maintains the low cost of cigarettes and makes it more enticing for current and would-be smokers, particularly the young, to buy.

For the Philippines, in the short term, a tobacco production facility is built and a few hundred jobs are created. However, in the long term, there are more costs than benefits from increased and cheaper tobacco production and use. Tobacco users are more sick, less productive and stand a higher risk of being disabled by respiratory ailments, heart disease and cancer caused by tobacco use. They become a chronic burden on a nation's health care system. Like the smoke of a cigarette, the economic advantage of the tobacco industry is gone in a puff.

According to a 1999 World Bank Report, "Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control," money spent on tobacco purchases would generate spending and jobs in other goods and services, creating jobs to replace those lost from tobacco sales—a shift which would bring major health benefits without harming economies.

The tobacco industry believes that if tobacco control remains a "health issue," it could influence other government stakeholders: finance, agriculture and industry. In the words of a recent British American Tobacco paper, one of the company's main objectives is to "maintain a dialogue with key government officials and ministers in order to be optimally positioned to influence their policy."

The truth is, tobacco threatens not only people's health but also their ability to contribute to social and economic development. Many governments recognize the threat and are implementing measures to curb tobacco use. However, the tobacco industry appears to be trying to pre-empt government anti-tobacco legislation by asserting where and how it can manufacture its products.

So what can we do? The answer lies in a global response: the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). When adopted, the proposed convention would become a global tobacco-control tool. It would support countries in their efforts to reduce tobacco consumption and the number of people dying from tobacco-related causes.

In November 2000, member states of the World Health Organization began mapping it out. A meeting last Nov. 22 to 28 in Geneva began the process of negotiating the text. Meetings will continue until the treaty is signed on the target date of May 2003.

Understandably, the tobacco industry is feeling the heat. Tobacco company representatives are inviting themselves to participate in "dialogue sessions" with national governments on tobacco control. Recently, in Mongolia, Philip Morris falsely advertised a recent meeting at the Mongolian parliament as an "official consultation." Similar tactics are employed in many countries, including Cambodia and Papua New Guinea.

But their strategy won't work. Instead, the international community should fashion the FCTC to go after the well-lined pockets of the tobacco industry. Globally, the tobacco industry stands to lose billions in tobacco sales and advertising if measures outlined in the FCTC are adopted. These measures include increases in tobacco taxes, a ban on advertising, and curtailment of investment rules which favor the tobacco industry.

What the tobacco industry stands to lose, low- and middle-income countries stand to gain. Measures to reduce the demand of tobacco will prevent millions of premature deaths and disability, especially among the poor, who are more likely to smoke than those in rich countries. Consider this: A 10-percent increase in cigarette prices worldwide could persuade 40 million of the world's smokers alive in 1995 to quit, and could prevent at least 10 million premature smoking-related deaths.

The tobacco industry says it wants to help the World Health Organization and its partners in health to save lives by discouraging children from smoking and spending research dollars on creating a "safer" cigarette. Do you believe it? I don't. It stands to lose too much if we pass the FCTC—a good reason for countries to show their support for it.

Shigeru Omi, M.D., Ph.D., is the regional director of the World Health Organization.

THEY SAID

Irrelevant concern

"If you're a professional policeman or soldier, what is your business with knowing who will be chosen chief of the PNP or Armed Forces? We each have our jobs. You should focus on your own."
—Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza on those spreading "demoralization rumors"

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE THE FEEDBACK LOOP:

Listening to the consumer *as* citizen

THE RECENT cable controversy generated provocative letters, all written from the point of view of the aggrieved consumer. As our coverage of the text cutback issue suggested earlier, some of the seeds of citizenship are sown in consumer awareness and advocacy programs. Compare the following letters: two on the SkyCable/Home Cable vs. Star TV flap, and one on the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire tragedy.

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! From Subject Received

Who can we complain to?

BY MARY ANN C. UY

KUDOS to you for taking up the cudgels for us lesser mortals in this issue (Sky/Home vs. Star). I am so fed up with everything here in the Philippines because we consumers are always being shortchanged! And to think, last month (October) was consumer month! Before my blood pressure shoots up to unhealthy levels, please let me share with you my views on this matter.

The first cable channel that Home/Sky axed was Star Sports—right before the last Formula 1 race in Suzuka, Japan! (Good thing Michael Schumacher clinched his world title earlier, or else we'd have had to miss the deciding race.) At first, we thought that there was merely some glitch in satellite transmission, but when all Star channels, including ESPN and National Geographic, disappeared, we were so incensed by this senseless act of selfishness that we called up Home, only to get recordings of "If you want to speak to a customer relations officer, please press 1, etc." Who could we complain to? We felt so helpless and inutile then because we couldn't do anything about this injustice.

When I read the public statements of Star TV and Home/Sky, I got to think more about this issue and became even angrier. Why? Because negotiations don't just break down this easily. The debt that Home/Sky owed Star TV must have been incurred way, way back, in order to reach that big an amount. And they're telling me that negotiations broke down, in the snap of a finger? Moreover, it's Home/Sky who owe Star TV, not the other way around. What bargaining power do they have in the negotiations? This is plain and simple business we're talking about: Home/Sky has no right to demand whatever it wants as long as it doesn't settle its debt.

Finally, I got pissed off reading the following Home/Sky statement: "It may only be a matter of time before the other cable operators drop channels as they are under the same cost pressures as SkyCable and Home Cable." If this isn't a perfect example of bitchiness, I don't know what is. The thinking of Home/Sky management must have been, "If we're going down, let's pull everybody down with us!"

I agree with you about Home/Sky showing the public the figures which involve millions of pesos. Each individual may not truly appreciate the hundreds of pesos he or she pays per month, but think about it. Isn't this similar to supermarkets (like the one in Ongpin street in Binondo, Manila) which don't give you change for groceries? The thinking must be: "It's only 15 centavos. It's not even enough to pay for jeepney fare." But when you have more than 1,000 customers in one day, this practice would translate to more than P150 in earnings, right? So who gets the better end of the deal?

Please continue your crusade in taking up the fight for us, the consumers.

'The consumer's power lies most dramatically in an act of negation, in the withdrawal of support from a product or a firm.'

The beauty of competition

BY ERIC R. MANALANG

THE ARTICLES, especially the "Talking Points" portion, were short but direct to the point. The two cable companies can give all the table comparisons for all we care. They even have the gall to tell their subscribers that it is our interest they have in mind. We don't mind paying extra premium as long as we get what we want to view. We know we have to shell out additional hard-earned pesos if it's quality channels we want. Here comes the beauty of competition and choice. Other cable companies offer the desired channels while others simply don't want to anymore.

We are the ones paying, so it's up to us whether to stick it out with those two bungling companies or shift to the others. I'm sure we can go on and on regarding this issue but rather than sit here and nag, I might as well pick up the phone to request for disconnection and apply for a line from the other.

Consumer power lives here with us.

Contributing our share

BY SERVILLANO Q. CASTRO

CAN we stop the fire next time? Yes!

The procedures and elements can be found in the articles of Alvin Estrada, spokesperson for the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines, and Joseph Stephen Santos, president of the Justice for Ozone Victims Foundation.

After reading both articles, I believe that the creation of the Department of National Fire Protection is necessary. The Secretary should be chosen from among the chairpersons of the different Boards of Engineering Examiners in the Professional Regulation Commission.

The Department of National Fire Protection will have two Divisions, as follows:

A. Fire Fighting. The responsibility of this Division will be to master the art and science of fighting or extinguishing all types or classes of fire. All firemen nationwide under the present Bureau of Fire Protection should belong to this Division.

B. Fire Prevention. The responsibility of this Division will be to master the art and science of preventing all types or classes of fire. The scope of work should include the upgrading of existing rules and regulations, formulation of new rules and regulations and strict implementation or enforcement through accepted inspection methods by qualified persons or registered engineering practitioners.

The Fire Prevention Division should have the following engineering safety boards: one for environmental safety, another for electrical safety, yet another for mechanical safety and a fourth for sanitary/civil safety.

Under each Safety Board, every municipality or city will have an electrical safety engineer, an environmental safety engineer, a mechanical safety engineer, and a sanitary/civil safety engineer.

This structure will be repeated under each safety engineer, with every municipality or city required to have as many inspectors for electrical safety, environmental safety, mechanical safety and sanitary/civil safety as necessary.

Registered engineers in the municipality or city will be deputized to perform the inspection and issue the certification of compliance of all rules and regulations of the National Building Code.

Every municipality or city shall keep a roster of registered engineers practicing and residing in the locality, ready and available to be deputized for inspection work for a fee or fair compensation.

Summary of participation

On the national level, the government will create a Department of National Fire Protection.

On the level of the private sector, registered and practicing engineers will be required to make the expert services available, for work involving inspection and certification of compliance of Building Code regulations.

On the level of public and private schools, these institutions should offer new training modules or courses leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering or its equivalent.

The next time there is a fire tragedy, we can blame the Department of National Fire Protection. But if all of us contribute his share to the common task of fire prevention, then together we can truly stop the fire next time.

Castro is a registered electrical engineer residing in Parañaque City. His chief interest in what he calls fire-related issues lies in preventing fires that start from the "improper utilization of electricity."

A call for contributors

THE MAJOR news stories of the year are easy enough to list. In the Philippines: the second coming of People Power, the arrest and trial of a former President, divisive off-year elections, an activist Supreme Court. There are also the scandals—sleaze as far as the eye can see—beginning with the reports of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's hidden wealth stashed abroad and his alleged involvement in organized crime.

Internationally, the major stories reflect the post-September 11 landscape: the spectacular strike against the World Trade Center, the impending global recession, the war in Afghanistan.

But what is urgent is not necessarily important. Some of the most important stories of the year may have been either under-reported or completely unreported. What, from a reader's perspective, are these vital but unnecessarily obscure stories?

If you wish to submit a contribution, send an e-mail before Dec. 16, 2001 to talk@inquirer.com.ph, *with "Query about under-reported stories" in the subject heading, to receive a copy of the contributors' guidelines.*

1 message(s), 1 unread

Working Online

Talking points

ON FIRST look, the power of the consumer is essentially a negative one—from using a customer hotline printed on the back of a product's packaging, to withdrawing support for a product, a service, even an entire firm. This power is exemplified in Ms Uy's plaintive question: "Who can we complain to?"

The question assumes twin responsibilities: the responsibility of the manufacturer or marketer to provide its customers with what they paid for is matched by the responsibility of the consumer to demand value for money.

In two short sentences, Mr. Manalang describes the consumer's responsibility with precision: "We don't mind paying extra premium as long as we get what we want to view. We know we have to shell out additional hard-earned pesos if it's quality channels we want."

If the company—whether it is a cable provider or the corner convenience store—refuses or otherwise fails to meet its end of the bargain, the consumer's options are clear. As Manalang puts it in damn-the-torpedoes-full-speed-ahead fashion: "We are the ones paying, so it's up to us whether to stick it out with those two bungling companies or shift to the others."

So far, so logical. But consumer power is not only negative. It can be impressively active—or, rather, pro-active, to use the jargon of MBAs for whom action is self-evidently not enough. A fascinating example: the power of word of mouth, which creates both new-economy powerhouses like Hotmail and old-economy standbys like last year's Zagu phenomenon.

It is important to realize this other side of consumer power, because of the role that consumer awareness and advocacy programs have played in fostering a sense of citizenship. Without the corollary duty to do something positive, "citizenship" can only be a thinly disguised form of entitlement.

One example should suffice: the text generation helped usher in a new government, using the technology to marshall the facts and muster the troops. But when the telecommunications companies saw fit to reduce the free text allowance for business reasons, they faced an unprecedented revolt. It wasn't only a consumer uprising, but a political one—that is, the mutinous multitude consisted of both aggrieved consumers and empowered citizens.

It is in this context that contributions like those of Engineer Castro should be received. Creating yet another government department may not solve the problem, as he suggests. But another suggestion is attractive partly because it seems doable. "On the level of the private sector, registered and practicing engineers will be required to make their expert services available," he writes.

One more point needs to be raised. Consumers tend to take thing personally. In her letter, for instance, Uy asks, rhetorically: "And they're telling me that negotiations broke down, in the snap of a finger?" Notice the "me" in the thick of things: of course, the cable companies did not seek to speak to her specifically, but every consumer caught up in the controversy saw it in personal terms.

Because our present sense of citizenship derives in part from our own experience of consumer advocacy campaigns, our participation in the life of the nation is also strongly personal—or personalistic. Whether this is good or bad is a different question altogether.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Afghan talks hit snags

BONN—Talks in Germany leading to the formation of a broad-based government in Kabul hit a snag over ethnic Pashtun representation in the future administration.

Just as the UN sponsors of the talks near Bonn said they expected agreement over the weekend, the powerful Northern Alliance demanded a 10-day adjournment, an appeal the United Nations and the other delegations rejected.

The Alliance suffered a major setback when the senior Pashtun figure in their own delegation, Haji Abdul Qadir, quit the talks, claiming the ethnic majority group was not being given enough clout.

Qadir was central to efforts by the alliance—dominated by minority Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras—to present itself as representative of the country's complex ethnic patchwork.

The difficulties arose as the four rival Afghan groups at the talks entered the crucial phase of finalizing lists of names for a 120-200 member parliamentary-style supreme council.

Another interim body—a 15-20-member Cabinet-style interim administration—has yet to be discussed. Setting up this body means tackling who gets key Cabinet portfolios such as defense and interior, as well as who should head the new government.

Delegates were also to consider a monarchist demand that former king Mohammed Zahir Shah become Afghanistan's new head of state and head the supreme council.

The ex-king, 87, is seen as pivotal to winning over the majority ethnic Pashtuns in the south, the heartland of the crumbling Taliban militia.

The Alliance however would prefer a unity government headed by its own political chief, Burhanuddin Rabbani, who served as president until the Taliban seized power in 1996.

The parties also appeared to be inching toward some kind of compromise on the possible deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force, which the Northern Alliance initially rejected *AFP*

A NORTHERN Alliance soldier takes off his shoes after putting his weapon away before praying Nov. 30 during Friday prayers at Kabul's main mosque. The Northern Alliance administration now in control of Kabul lifted Friday all religious restrictions imposed by the hardline Taliban in Afghanistan, saying the "dark years" are over. AFP

US planes pummel Kandahar airport

QUETTA, Pakistan—US warplanes hammered Kan-dahar airport on Saturday as tribal warriors closed in on the Taliban's last stronghold in Afghanistan, a tribal leader said.

Ahmed Karzai, brother of Hamid Karzai who has been rallying royalist Pashtun tribesmen against the Taliban for weeks, said intense bombing was under way at the airport and the road that leads southeast from Kandahar to the Pakistani border.

"I just talked to a commander at Takhta Pul," Karzai said, referring to a town 45 km from Kandahar taken from the Taliban last week. "He said he'd never seen anything like it."

Anti-Taliban tribesmen said they seized tanks and heavy weapons Friday near the airport outside Kandahar and Taliban fighters gave up without a fight at a checkpoint near the airport. In Washington, an American general said the battle will go on until Kandahar is a "free city."

Ethnic Pashtun tribesmen loyal to tribal leader Kamel Uddin claimed they captured five Taliban tanks, four pickup trucks, one anti-aircraft gun and a multiple rocket launcher at a Taliban checkpoint near the city's airport.

An aide to Uddin, Abdul Jabbar, said in Pakistan that 80 Taliban fighters at the checkpoint gave up without firing a shot after they were surrounded and ordered to surrender.

Karzai said the Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, still believed to be holed up near Kandahar, had told his aides to buy seven camels, apparently in case he needs to flee across the desert, and was using a bicycle or motorcycle to move around the city to avoid detection from the air.

Karzai did not disclose the source of this information.

He said his brother's forces, who had been operating in Uruzgan province north of Kandahar, had advanced on Friday to within 40 to 50 km of the ancient walled city.

He said the tribesmen were narrowing the area where the Taliban could move, rather than attacking the city directly, and encouraging demoralized Taliban fighters to switch sides.

"The idea is to put pressure on them. When districts are closed off it's very easy for individual Taliban to defect."

He said a Taliban commander named Lal Mohammed, based in the Jagnaari district near Kandahar, had agreed to defect and bring his five tanks and other heavy weapons to Takhta Pul.

Asked how the tribesmen would treat Taliban commanders wishing to surrender, Karzai said there could be no mercy for about a dozen who are close to Mullah Omar.

"Some people have no chance," he said. "If I was to give them amnesty, there would be two million other people who want to kill them. Not even the United States would be able to save them. They are the ones who did all the killing."

Among those he named as facing certain death if captured were Hafiz Majid and Mullah Saleh Mohammad. Karzai said all but the most hard-core Taliban commanders had already fled the city. *Reuters, AP*

Coalition assailed for refusing massacre probe

ISLAMABAD—The US-led coalition fighting in Afghanistan and the Northern Alliance came under fire on Friday for ruling out an inquiry into the killing of hundreds of Taliban prisoners during a revolt in northern Afghanistan this week.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, called for a probe into the suppression of the armed Taliban uprising at a prison fortress near the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Amnesty International said "serious abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law may have been committed."

Faced with growing calls for a probe into whether a massacre had been committed by the Northern Alliance, supported by the US and Britain, the US-led coalition insisted the prisoners themselves were responsible for the slaughter.

US warplanes bombed the fortress and US and British special forces were seen fighting alongside Northern Alliance soldiers to put down the revolt at the Qala-e-Jangi fortress 10 km west of Mazar-i-Sharif from Sunday to Wednesday.

"There are a lot of disturbing reports coming out," Robinson told BBC World Service news. "If there are contraventions of standards—prisoners or civilians—the leaders of forces should be disqualified from a future government.

"And the worst perpetrators should be brought to justice," Robinson said, adding that a probe would be ``a standard-setting exercise."

"It's a reminder to all parties that the Geneva Conventions apply and international humanitarian law applies," she added.

The Geneva Convention on rights in wartime bans all indiscriminate attacks and makes it illegal to order that there shall be no survivors.

But British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw ruled out an inquiry.

"The idea that at this moment we could have a judicial inquiry into the difficult circumstances of Mazar-i-Sharif is frankly not on," Straw told BBC radio.

"The situation there was absolutely terrible, everybody accepts that, and there was this slaughter of prisoners. But this is not some easy Western circumstance. This was in the middle of a terrible situation where law and order had broken down."

Amnesty condemned Britain's stance.

"The rejection of an inquiry by the United Kingdom into what is apparently the single most bloody incident of the war . . . raises questions about their commitment to the rule of law," Amnesty said in a statement.

"What can there be to fear from an inquiry except the truth and a clear message that impunity will not be tolerated?"

A spokesperson for the US-led coalition also rejected Amnesty's call.

"We have to say that we can see no need for an inquiry as proposed. There is no evidence that unarmed prisoners were summarily killed," coalition spokesperson Kenton Keith told a news conference in Islamabad. *AFP*

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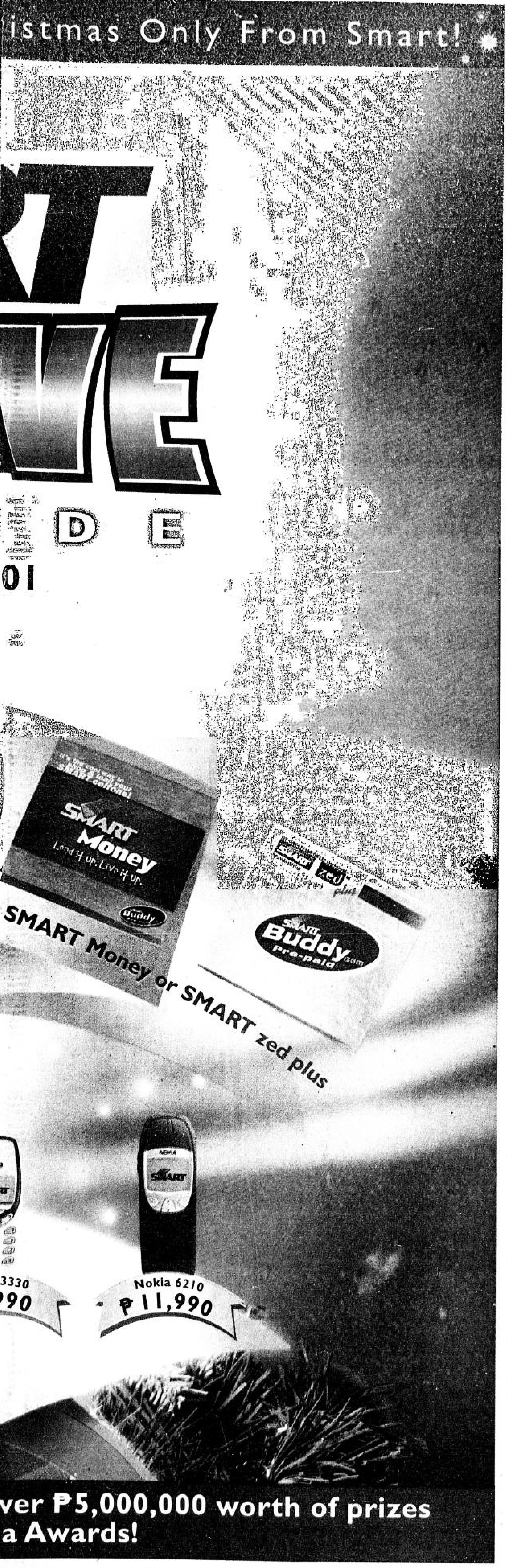
Mexico; LIBIS Rest., San Simon; Lines Open, Gen Hizon St., San Fernando; Saltel Marketing, Pob., Guagua; SM City, Pampanga **Olongapo:** Puregold SBMA; Funtastic Subic SBMA; **Balanga:** Centre Mall (3/F) **Tarlac:** Camiling Public Mkt blitz, PLDT Tarlac Exchange (San Nicolas
Prado Commercial; **San Pablo Mall:** Zalde Telecoms, Edsel; **Naga (Plaza Rizal):** Unicycle, DM Cellphone Center, UN Commercial,, Tancell, Cellcity **VISAYAS Bacolod:** Galleon Trading, SD Tan, OMNI Mktg , Cellen , Jaymes Trading, C4K **Tacloban:** Cellcom, Dualcom, Ev
MINDANAO Cagayan de Oro: Accesspoint, Ritz Cellular, Cellwave, Cellucom, Foneplus, Zachs Enterprises, Semicon, 6T3 Interprice, Unique, Graphics; **Davao:** Mobile Republic, Mobile Specialists Inc., Celluline Mktg, Mobile Networks Inc., Cellwide, Y Telecoms, RXY, Con
Pharmacia Jessica, CJ Comm, BL Comm; **Pagadian:** Valiant Electronics, Celluplanet, People's Plaza, Netquest; **Surigao:** Benis Hardware, Star Cellulars; **Cotabato:** Diero Communications, AGFA-Felijan Bazaar, Fone Home, Wireless Comm, Tek A Fon; **General**



Experience an earth-shaking Christmas as SMART brings you the biggest blast of the hottest celfones at low, low prices. SMART zed plus and SMART Money SIM packs are also available to activate your digital life. SMART Shockwave's sales tremors go off the scale with the power of the SMART Amazing Christmas Treat Raffle Promo where over ₱5,000,000 worth of prizes is at stake, and SMART Barkada SIM Swap Raffle where you get the chance to fly to Singapore to watch the 1st MTV Asia Awards. Go to the SMART Shockwave site nearest to you and feel the amazing power of SMART Shockwave now!

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Get SMARTcelfones at low, low prices: Choose from Mitsubishi Trium Mars, Philips Vogue and Ericsson A2628 for only ₱2,990 each! Avail of hot celfones at the best deals! – Philips Ozeo at ₱3,990; Siemens C35i at ₱4,590; Alcatel OT 30[illegible] at ₱4,990; Nokia 3310 at ₱5,290; Nokia 3330 at ₱7,990 and Nokia 6210 at ₱11,990.

Note: All celfones are at suggested retail prices

CHOOSE FROM TWO POWERFUL SIM CARDS

SMART zed plus-the Super SIM that lets you personalize your menu for click-and-browse access to the services you want.

SMART Money-the card that is linked to your celfone so that you can shop without cash.

EXPERIENCE THE SMART GOLD RUSH!

SWITCH NOW TO SMART GOLDAND AVAIL OF THE FOLLOWING:

SWITCHING PACKAGE 1	
Nokia 3310 (Plan 1200)	FREE
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Siemens S35i (Plan 3000)	
Siemens S45 (Plan 4000)	
Siemens ME45 (Plan 4000)	

For non-SMART post-paid and PriceBuster subscribers with 2 months ave. billing of at least ₱800: 12-month contract

SWITCHING PACKAGE 2	
Nokia 8210 (Plan 1800)	FREE
Siemens S45 (Plan 3000)	
Siemens ME45 (Plan 3000)	
Ericsson T39 (Plan 3000)	
Nokia 8850 (Plan 4000)	
Nokia 8310 (Plan 4000)	

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NO ENTRANCE FEE • IMMEDIATE ACTIVATION • FREE SMART MONEY OR ZED PLUS 32K SIM PACK ON ALL DEALS • FREE SIM SWAP

WIN FABULOUS PRIZES IN THE MOST EXCITING CHRISTMAS PROMOS!

SMART BARKADA SIM SWAP RAFFLE PROMO

Swap your SIM at the Shockwave sites as the SIM Swap Madness hits the barkada! Get your barkada of four or five to SIM swap as a group and get the chance to win a trip for five to the 1st MTV Asia Awards in Singapore on February 2, 2002 with ₱25,000 shopping money per barkada member! Individual SIM swappers also get a chance to win ₱20,000 each in cash. Choose from SMART zed plus or SMART Money. Whether on Gold or Buddy; you're a sure winner with SMART!

*See Barkada SIM Swap Raffle flyers.

AMAZING CHRISTMAS TREAT

Experience a richly rewarding Christmas! The SMART Amazing Christmas Treat Raffle Promo is out to give away over ₱5,000,000 in prizes! Just grab a SMART celfone, reload and use SMART IDD and earn raffle entries! 15 winners get to choose from 3 fabulous showcases (a choice of Family Travel, Digital Dream or Home Entertainment Showcases) or cash in the preliminary draws. And a grand prize of ₱2,000,000 cash in the grand draw—TAX-FREE! Make your holidays amazing and grab a SMART celfone now!

*See Smart Amazing Christmas Treat flyers.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

JAZZ UP WITH THE NEW SMART MONEY-MTV CARDS!

SMART Money and MTV have tied up to give you the new SMART Money-MTV Cards. Get into exclusive MTV events and even get freebies, privileges and perks with an exclusive rewards program! Simply call 845-7755, choose a design, and get your SMART Money-MTV Card for free!

Visit us at all SMART Wireless Centers, TSI Outlets, TSI Blitzes, ADI Telecom, Telemartcom, Semicon, selected Megacellular, Uno Communications, Topwin Telecom, Best Communications Branches nationwide and at the following Shockwave sites:

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Glorietta, Makati (Telecom Lane)
Sta. Lucia Grandmall, Marikina (3/L Riverbanks Center)
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Winstar SBMA, Subic, Olongapo
Magic Mall, Urdaneta (3/F)
Csi, The City Mall, Dagupan (G/F)
Ilocano Heroes Hall, Laoag
Recar Mall, Balanga, Bataan (2/F)
Saver's Mall, Angeles City (G/F)
Metro Town Mall, Tarlac (G/F)
NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan (G/F Atrium)
Robinson's Place, Imus (4/F-TSI)
Liana's, Calamba (G/F Entrance)
Fiesta Mall, Lipa (G/F Entrance - CommWorks)

Visayas:
SM Iloilo (UG/F in front of Nat'l Book Store)
SM Cebu (LG/F in front of Bibo)
Dynasty Mall, Tacloban (G/F Entrance)

Mindanao:
Gaisano Mall, Davao (3/F - Spazzio)
Limketkai Mall, CDO (Activity Area)

For details, please call us at:
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SMART
Simply Amazing!

/Ephone; **SM City, Quezon City**: Games & Gadgets, Alfa 1, Excell; **Shangri-la, Mandaluyong**: TCA/Ephone; **Sta. Lucia East Grandmall**: TCA/Ephone; **Tutuban Center**: TCA/Ephone **LUZON Aparri**: BNM Telecom Ents., Angge's Boutique Gift Shop,; **Tuguegarao**: New Q-Net Communication (Maharlika), MZF Trading, Paez Trading; **Imus**: MCL Technology, Khreezela, JCC Gen Merchandising, DGD Trading, Pardz Trading, JLP Gift Shop; **Baguio/Benguet**: AMGLO, Lion's Den Fest., Piltel Bus. Office, St. Louis University blitz, La Trinidad Public Mangaldan), ESN blitz (Asingan), San Fabian blitz (San Fabian Public Mkt), QSL Electronics (Dagupan), Guanzon Merchandising Corp. (Dagupan City), Celfon Lab (Dagupan), Juma Telecom (Urdaneta Public Mkt), **Ilocos Sur**: Narvacan Public Mkt. blitz; JTC Supermarket, Bantay; Mike lic Market, Malolos; Virginia's Shop, Maunlad Mall Malolos; Mariel Counter Blitz/ Mc Donald, Pob Baliuag; Foxcom, Pob Sta Maria; MCK Drug/Campus Boulevard, Baliuag; JLL com., CVC Supermarket, Baliuag; **Pampanga**: Puregold, Clark Special Economic Zone; Tita Nel's Grocery,) Cellquest (Magic Star Mall), RJP Phonemart, Tarlac Hausware Marketing; **Calamba**: Brian Photolab, TSS Telecoms, GEMCELL Telecoms; **Batangas**: ASTRA Video Shop, SAGULAPI Computer Shop, CAEDO Commercial; Quickcom, Lipa; **Palawan**: BODY Zone, Puerto Electronico, sun, TM Cellular; **Iloilo**: 3Starcom Enterprises, Aceland, Diphcom, Videocom, Sharkbyte, Taneza Enterprises, Broad Horizon (Roxas Gaisano), Wesfardel (Roxas Gaisano); **Cebu**: Audionet, Cebu Cellular, Prince Telecoms, Syncom, Chelnell, Shop 'N Save, Jorgeens, Genson Enterprises serve, Maconfi, Cell Station, **JS CitiMall, Davao**: Radiam, Celltone; **Gaisano Mall, Davao**: Microcell, Symphony; **Victoria Plaza, Davao**: Call sign, Ringtone: SM City, Davao: I Hop, Wyltelcom; **Butuan**: Star Cellulars; **Dipolog**: Metro Shoppers, Janvic Ent.; **Ozamis**: Gold Square, Santos: Matutum Comm, Cellutel, Truvoice, Sendtel, Celluline, Celfone Lab, Arcade Mdsg; **Zamboanga**: Wisebuy Cellular Shoppe, Sir Pong Mktg., Dial Tone, CJ Cellphone Plus, Aboobut Direct Line, Klo Cellular Shoppe, Zaragosa Cellular Shoppe, Daily Plan Mktg.

Israel re-tightens grip on 2 Palestinian towns

JERUSALEM—Israel re-tightened its grip on two West Bank towns Saturday following a suicide bombing two days earlier, as US envoy Anthony Zinni prepared to tour the Gaza Strip after vowing to stay "as long as it takes" to secure a ceasefire.

Zinni roundly condemned the Thursday attack on a bus in northern Israel that left three Israelis and a suicide bomber dead, accusing radical Palestinian groups of trying to sabotage his mission.

"The groups that do this are clearly trying to make my mission fail, this mission to try to end this violence and to get back on the path of peace," Zinni said on Friday.

While the retired US Marine Corps general was talking, Israel was taking action.

The Army reinforced its presence around the hotspot West Bank towns of Jenin and Nablus, a military source said Saturday.

The move around Jenin was taken for the "pure and simple reason that six of the seven Israelis killed in attacks in recent days were victim of (suicide bombers) from that town," the source said.

"We have also tightened the blockade around the suburbs of Nablus, but our forces have not penetrated Palestinian sectors, neither there nor in Jenin," the source added.

Israeli public radio said Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer ordered the increased deployment because he considers the two towns to be "nests of terrorism."

It quoted sources close to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, currently on a five-day visit to the United States, as saying Sharon had ordered a response to recent anti-Israeli attacks.

The radio also said Ben Eliezer and his deputy, Dalia Rabin-Filosof, held an unscheduled meeting Friday with US peace envoy Anthony Zinni. The minister pointed out that there were a number of security alerts in Israel and alleged that the wave of Palestinian violence was aimed at torpedoing Zinni's mission.

Zinni arrived in the region on Monday with US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns in a bid to broker a lasting ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians and get the two sides back to peace talks.

The very next day, Palestinian gunmen opened fire at a bus station in northern Israel, killing two Israelis and wounding more than two dozen others before being shot dead.

And on Thursday, a member of the radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad blew himself up on a public bus elsewhere in northern Israel, killing three Israelis and wounding six more.

Zinni is set to visit the Gaza Strip on Saturday for official talks and to tour the area, a Palestinian official said.

Speaking on Friday of his joint mission with Burns, who is in Saudi Arabia for talks with officials there, Zinni said: "The first thing we must deal with is the ceasefire, stopping the violence; that is the first criterion, and that's what I am committed to work to.

He vowed to "be here as long as it takes to make that happen."

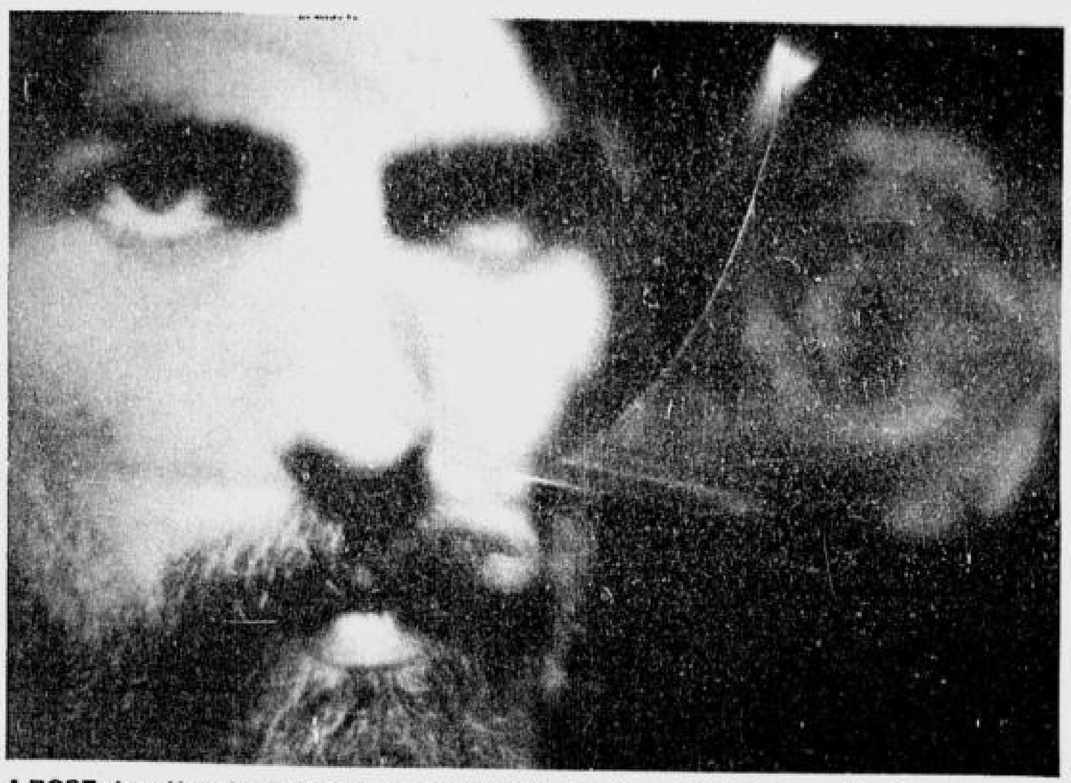
Meanwhile, Sharon arrived in New York Friday for a visit that will include his third meeting with US President George W. Bush on Monday, and toured the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York.

Asked what he expected from his meeting with Bush, Sharon said, "I wait and hope that the United States . . . will pressure the Palestinians to end to the violence."

The White House said Bush hoped the meeting "will help to accelerate the process of bringing peace to the Middle East."

Sharon almost postponed his trip after the Thursday night bombing, but a spokesperson, Arnon Perlman, said doing so would have been "a gift to terrorism."

The latest killings pushed the overall death toll since the start of the Palestinian uprising 14 months ago to 1,006, including 787 Palestinians and 197 Israelis. *AFP*



A ROSE placed by a fan lies beside the portrait of the late former Beatle George Harrison on the gate of the Abbey Road Studios in London Nov. 30. REUTERS

Fans worldwide gently weep at loss of Harrison

LOS ANGELES—Music fans across the world were mourning Saturday the death of "the quiet Beatle" George Harrison who lost his battle against cancer but left a strong legacy in the world of pop and beyond.

Tributes poured in Friday from around the world for the lead guitarist and youngest member of the "Fab Four" who died Thursday at the age of 58 in a friend's house in Los Angeles, his wife Olivia and son Dhani, 24, by his side.

"He left this world as he lived in it, conscious of God, fearless of death, and at peace, surrounded by family and friends," his family said.

Fellow Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, the last two surviving Beatles, led the tributes.

McCartney, clearly emotional as he spoke to reporters, called Harrison "my baby brother."

"We know he has been ill for a while and we have just been praying for some kind of miracle," he said.

"It wasn't to be, but I understand from his wife he went peacefully, which is a great blessing, and it was a very peaceful golden moment apparently."

Starr, the band's drummer, said he had lost "a best friend."

John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono said: "George has given so much to us in his lifetime and continues to do so even after his passing, with his music, his wit and his wisdom.

"Thank you George, it was grand knowing you."

Harrison died amid the chants and prayers of Hare Krishna practitioners with whom he has been close since the 1960s, a source from the movement said Friday.

While Harrison's songwriting skills were often overshadowed by the talents, and egos, of his fellow band members Lennon and McCartney, he penned his own Beatles classics including "Here Comes the Sun," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," and "Something" which Frank Sinatra once described as the finest love song ever written.

Tributes flooded in from Liverpool, the birthplace of the Beatles, where the British flag flew at half mast, and around the world, including Queen Elizabeth and US President George Bush.

At Abbey Road, the Beatles' legendary London studio, young fans paid tribute to Harrison, proving the enduring appeal of the band that came to symbolize the Swinging '60s. *AFP*

Artificial heart patient dies on Day 152

TOOLS

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Pioneering heart transplant patient Robert Tools died Friday, 152 days after he was given the world's first fully-implantable artificial heart, doctors said.

The 59-year-old passed away in the intensive care unit of Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, from complications arising from internal bleeding.

Tools' death came one day after he developed abdominal bleeding and succumbed to multi-organ failure because of his body's inability to tolerate anti-clotting drugs.

"Bob became a dear friend to all of us. We will miss Bob's laugh, his sense of humor and his fighting spirit," said Dr Rob Dowling, one of the surgeons who operated on the former telecommunications worker almost five months ago.

"His pioneering spirit will long live on in the fight against heart disease," he said in a statement issued by the hospital, which made it clear Tools' death was not caused by a failure of his mechanical heart.

Tools was in end-stage heart disease, with an outside chance of surviving 30 days, when his failing heart was replaced with the plastic and titanium pump in a seven-hour operation in July.

At the time, the University of Louisville surgical team who operated on Tools said the battery-driven pump might double their patient's life expectancy—a conservative estimate since they had no clinical data to work with.

But more than two months later, after the 60-day milestone, his doctors were celebrating Tools' progress, which allowed him to move out of the intensive care unit and make several trips out of hospital.

"While we continue to have ups and downs, Bob's overall recovery is remarkable," Dr. Laman Gray, one of Tools' surgeons, said Sept. 7.

And ultimately, it was not Tool's mechanical heart, called an AbioCor, which let him down, but his body's inability to support the anti-coagulation drugs needed to prevent his blood from clotting.

The 59-year-old survived a stroke on Nov. 11, but on Thursday he developed abdominal bleeding as a result of a long-standing problem with the anti-clotting drugs, and by late Thursday he had succumbed to multi-organ failure. *AFP*

PINAKAMAGANDANG REGALO SA PASKO!!!

NANALO NG Php 23 MILLION JACKPOT SA MEGA LOTTO
PATOTOOO 12 OCT. 2001
Yung kaibigan kong si Myrna Gonzales fr. Sta Rosa bibili lang ng buko pie, bumili ng Lucky Pyramid & Wishing Plant sa JC HERBAL, Los Baños NANALO NG Php 23 MILLION sa Mega Lotto, umuwi na ng Agdao, Davao.
Jennifer Villaran
Anos, LOs Baños

OCT. 20, 2001
Lagi akong maibli sa aking paninda mula nang bumili ako ng ako ng Pyramid.
Trinidad Hernandez
241 Sumapang Mtd. Mal. Bul.

AFTER 3 DAYS NAKATANGGAP NG BONUS Php 80,000.00
OCT. 20, 2001
Bumili ako ng Pyramid Saturday Oct. 13, after 3 days approved ang inaantay naming bonus tig 80 thousand kami ng friend ko
Lina at Sonia
Pasay at Makati

TRABAHO ANG LUMAPIT
OCT. 20, 2001
After 3 days mula ng bumili ako ng Pyramid, nakahanap ako ng trabaho Thank you sa Pyramid and to Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Gina of Lipa

WALA KA BANG TRABAHO?
WALA RING PERA?
Gusto mong magkatrabaho at magkapera?
Makakatulong ako sa iyo.

BAWAL NA MAGTIPID AT MAGBADYET
NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAMPAYAMAN
Hindi anting-anting o magic
Yng walang pera, nagkakapera
Yng walang trabaho nagkakatrabaho
Yng hindi nananalo. laging nananalo
SA BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

BIGLANG YAMAN DUMARAMI DAHIL SA PYRAMID
Mabibili rin: WISHING PLANT (PAMPAUNLAD NG BUHAY)

Gumamit ng Pampa-YAMAN "Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa." Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA. Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. YAYAMAN KA LANG

GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA
"NAIMBENTO NA"
PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA

ENJOY GODS MIRACLES

CONGRATULATIONS!
"TO LOTTO JACKPOT WINNER FROM BINONDO. MANILA. ANG BINILI NIYA AY WISHING PLANT"

PINAKAMAGANDANG REGALO TALAGANG MABISA
GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA "NAIMBENTO NA"
GAMOT SA KAHIRAPAN, NARITO NA!
GOOD LUCK sa Negosyo, trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, JAI-ALAI, BINGO ATBP.
*Pampa-TRABAHO
*Pampa-ABROAD
Panlabanan SUGAL para laging PANALO SA LOTTO, JAI ALAI, BINGO, ENDING, SWEEPTAKES
BIGLANG YAMAN DUMARAMI DAHIL SA...

BALITANG TAGUMPAY!
Ang Experiment ni Engr. *Margie D. Centeno* na "PAMPA-YAMAN NA HALAMAN"
-Wishing Plant ay successful

Hindi Anting-anting, o Magic. Yung walang pera, nagkakapera, Yung walang trabaho, nagkakatrabaho, Yung di nananalo. lagi nananalo sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

NAGKA-P50 MILLION at NAGKA-BAHAY (P500,000!)
Bumili ako ng maliit lang na Pyramid tuloy-tuloy ang benta ko sa Jardine Land.
Nag-top ako, Umabot ako sa P50M.
In one year marami akong AWARD na natanggap.
Syempre kasama ang dasal. Nagpaaral ko ang mga anak ko sa College.
-Lynna

LUCKY PYRAMID
WISHING PLANT (PAMPA-UNLAD NG BUHAY)
AT PARA HINDI NAUUBUSAN NG PERA

LABANAN ang KAHIRAPAN
LABANAN ang SUGAL

"PAGMABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO"

SUBUKAN MO!

BALITANG SAYANG

TIP ni Engr. CENTENO HINDI NATAYAAN DAPAT NANALO SA LOTTO P79 MILLION: 10 OCT. 2001
Sayang hindi ko natayaan yung number panalo sana P79,000,000.00 SA SUPERLOTTO last month
Rozalda Banda
#16 Peacock Bend St., Bay breeze Subd. Taguig Metro Manila

Emiliano R. Bolaño --ooOoo-- Oct. 16.2001
San Fernando, Romblon Sept 15, 1957
Dapat Nanalo yong kapatid ko sa 6-digit kaso di natayaan kaagad

Oct. 18.2001 --ooOoo-- Jose Bolaño Jr.
Yang mister ko tumama 3,000 sa Bingo
Ginupit lang niya yang add sa dyaryo nakabili siya ng relo at kwintas Pero hindi siya bumili ng Pyramid kaya hindi natuloy yang swerte nya sa bingo. kaya Sayang.
Mrs. Maluda Medina Bo. San Rafael SPC.
CEL# 09163362530

08/21/01 --ooOoo--
DAPAT nanalo ng P19 MILLION sayang!! di ko natayan. tama sana ako ng Jackpot kagabi August 20, 2001 sa nos. 33-43-12-29-23-26 sa 6/45

--ooOoo--
DAPAT NANALO NG P30 MILLION JACKPOT SA LOTTO 'DI NATAYAAN. yong pamangkin ko binigyan ng numero sa Lotto ng LUCKY PYRAMID lumabas ang numero sa Jackpot pero hindi natayaan (P30M+)
Servando Vinculado

Date: Oct. 9, 2001 --ooOoo--
From: 0919-7641402, Time: 8:02:32 p.m.
Mam, Gud pm. Mam parang gs2 kng umiyak kc bgay mo number labas ngyon kso lang hindi ako nakataya kc check-up ako kanina sayang talaga d sana ma blow-out na kita. Pwede hingi uli.

Oct. 18, 2001
Nanalo ako sa 4 Digit, ginupit ko lang yung ads sa dyaryo at nilagay ko sa wallet ko. Ilang araw lang tumama na ako!!! - Php 100,000.00 Solve lahat ang problema ko. (8698-Oct. 1)

Nov. 17, 2001 --ooOoo--
Mula ng ginupit ko ang ADS ng LUCKY PYRAMID ay mabilis naubos ang tinda kung ulam at pang almusal at nakakabayad ako sa aking mga utang at may utang sa akin kusang lumalapit at nagbabayad at pinadalhan pa ako ng pera worth P11,000.00
Tess E. - Imus Cavite

BALITANG SUWERTE

CONGRATS!!!
Naka-CLOSE ng deal P 5 BILLION sa Real Estate pagbili ng Lucky Pyramid kay Engr. Centeno.

PATOTO- --ooOoo--
ARLENE, Bought PYRAMID & wishing plant, Dreams fulfille, now in Italy succesfully working.

--ooOoo--
Tumama ng P8,000 sa JUETENG
Oct. 18 ang Pinsan ko ay bumili ng Pyramid at siya ay tumama sa Jueteng P8,000- ang kanyang tinamaan.
Arcangel F. faura - Bo. Tagumpay Bay Lag.

--ooOoo--
Nov 2, 2001
Bumili ako ng Lucky Pyramid sa JC HERBAL, NANALO ako ng P40,000.00 sa JUETENG. Ginamit ko sa DEBUT NG ANAK KO.
-Damaso B. Zara
Rosario Pasig

--ooOoo-- 10-15-01
Humingi ng tip sa jueteng tru text after less than a month Tumama ang numero 19x 27 noong Sabado. Maliit lang ang taya kya maliit din ang tama. At last tumama din. Malaking tulong dahil that time wala kaming pambayad sa koryente
09194194827 P2400- Ely de Villa - Gen. Trias Cavite

Diosdado Sonata --ooOoo-- Oct. 18 2001
Driving Tritan Nanalo sa Jueteng P17,000 (14/35) GREEN PYRAMID ang binili sa JC Herbal, Los Banos Tip ni Engr. CENTINO 14/35
-Liwanag Sonata
Dulong Bayan St. San Pablo City

Ginupit ko lang sa Diyaryo lumakas na ang tinda ko na dati 300 lag ngayon 600 na.
-Diosdao A. Serarano
Las Piñas

--ooOoo--
March 2001
My bother in law is working in Bangkok. He bought a Pyramid it is vey effective kusang lumapit ang trabaho sa kanya.
-Merly, Sosogon BICOL
CONGATULATIONS!
Lea C. from Cabanatuan, Iloilo nanalo ng jackpot sa LOTTO na ngayon ay nagpagawa ng bahay na bungalow w/ 3 bedrooms w/ dity kitchen pa.
-Ms. Emily C. ng Pasig M.M.

HERBAL PRODUCTS

6/3/01
Nakabili ako ng Hair Growing Herbal at napaka effective po. Isang linggo lang may tumubo nang 1 centimeter.
Salamat sa Lucky Pyramid ni Engr. Maggie Centeno.
BOBBY VINCULADO - Sto. Niño, Muntinlupa City

--ooOoo--
Mar. 1, 2001
Tinubuan ng buhok sa RICH HAIR after 2 weeks Ana Villegas
CECIL VILLEGAS - Mayondon, L.B.

Mar. 1, 2001 --ooOoo--
Tinubuan ng buhok yung kaibigan ko after using 15ml. of RICH HAIR GROWER
RAQUEL G. of Anos - Los Baños, Laguna

--ooOoo--
Salamat Engr. Centeno nawala ang sakit ng ulo ko. Tinapat ko lang ang Pyramid sa noo ko ng 10 minutes lang.
Salamat po - JUNE TADEO

Sept. 12, 2001 --ooOoo--
Effective ang binili ko na pampaakit, anim ang naging babae ko. Ako pa ang pinupuntahan sa amin. Ngayon dalawa na ang anak ko lapitin sa akin ang babae.
J.R. - LEVERIZA, PASAY CITY

Oct, 6, 2001 --ooOoo--
Effective ang love make sa bata at matanda, dahil marami ang omo-order nito sa akin, talagang masaya sila pag-gamit ng love mate!!
A.V. Villamor - Makati

Nov 20, 2001
Iyong kaibigan ng tatay niya ay nakalakad dahil sa Miracle Oil. Ipinahid lang nakalakad na. May kaibigan ako bumili ng gold Pyramid nakaalis papuntang USA.
Virginia Aguilar - San Antonio, Sto. Tomas Batangas

--ooOoo--
Iwas 158 cm, tall before, in just 22 hours, I increased my height to 160 cm. After taking Heiht Plus! Ako po yung bumili ng height + nung Sabado. Bumili rin po ako ng Miracle Oil. Ipinahid lang nya sa katawan nya dahil masakit ang katawan nya. Nawala agad ang sakit
Liezel Alano - 0919-5530118

--ooOoo--
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Nov. 17, 2001
Hindi na po ako gumagamit ng salamin simula ng gumamit ako ng ng Miracle Oil. Talaga pong effective ang Miracle Oil . Thank you po kay Engr. Margie D. Centeno & Thak you Lord Jesus Christ.
Josie - Bulacan

ALAM BA NINYO...?
Alam ba ninyo na mahigit sa 60 na ang mga nanalo ng JACKPOT na NAKABILI KAY Engr. M.D. Centeno ng LUCKY PYRAMID at WISHING PLANT, ngunit ni isa ay walang bumalik para magpasalamat at magbalato. Gumaling ang kanilang Sakit sa Bulsa, sa iba namin nalaman na NANALO pala sila.
Mabuti yung 10 ketongin na pinagaling ni Hesu Kristo, may isang bumalik upang magpasalamat.
Mabuti pa yung mga NANALO ng kakaunting halaga lamang bumabalik sila upang magpasalamat at magpatotoo. Sa kanilang mga balato ay maraming natulungan upang maipaabot ang GAMOT sa SAKIT sa BULSA sa mahihirap.
Bakit pag masamang balita madaling kumalat, pag magandang balita ayaw ikalat, ayaw-i-front page...

24 Oct. 2001
Mga GRO sa 3 beerhouse sa Calamba nakagamit ng JC Miracle Soap pumuti raw ang kanilang singit, at kili-kili nawala ang peklat, kuminis ang balat, gumaling ang pimples nila at higi sa lahat bumalik ang kanilang ari sa pagkabirhen (pampa-virgin daw ang sabon na nabili sa JC Herbal Anos, Los Baños)
-Ruth ng Malaking Bato Anos, Los Baños

Oct. 18 2001
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Japan's royal baby spurs cheers, debate

By George Nishiyama

MASAKO

TOKYO—Japan's Crown Princess Masako gave birth to a girl on Saturday, bringing cheer to a nation mired in economic gloom, but raising questions about whether a female should be allowed to ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Both Masako, 37, and the baby—the first born to the princess and Crown Prince Naruhito, 41, in more than eight years of marriage—were doing well, court officials said.

The infant weighs 3.102 kg (six pounds, 12 ounces) and stands 49.6 cm (19 and four-fifth inches), the Imperial Household Agency said.

Masako was admitted to the hospital in the grounds of the Imperial Palace around 11:25 p.m. Friday and was reported to have gone into labor around 12:40 p.m. Saturday.

But the birth is likely to intensify debate over a law that says only males can inherit the world's oldest hereditary monarchy.

No males have been born into the imperial family since 1965.

Still, the long-awaited birth to the diplomat-turned princess was a rare bit of happy news for a country whose economy has been hit by rising joblessness and deflation.

Some media predicted it could even persuade edgy consumers to pry open their purses and spend.

"I have long been awaiting this day," said Takashi Imai, head of business lobby Keidanren.

"This news gives the people of Japan peace of mind and hope in the middle of a world made dismal by the domestic economic slump and the situation in Afghanistan," he said.

The princess miscarried in late 1999 after a media circus which some blamed for the unhappy outcome of her first pregnancy.

"It is good that the birth went well," a court official quoted Emperor Akihito, the baby's grandfather, as saying on hearing the news.

Empress Michiko grew a bit teary-eyed when told of the birth of her eldest son's first child, her third grandchild.

"I would like to offer words of congratulations," the court official quoted the empress as saying.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi—who has said he sees no reason a female should not ascend the throne—echoed the happy sentiment. "Along with other Japanese people, I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations," he said.

Japan's newest royal got her first taste of the life of ritual and official duties that lie ahead when the emperor presented her with a ceremonial samurai sword and a hakama, a ceremonial skirt once part of traditional court dress for women.

Though no longer believed to be ruled by a divine emperor, Japan's modest imperial family is popular and crowds had gathered outside the massive palace compound in central Toyko to await word of the birth.

"Congratulations, that is all that I can say. She is the long-awaited baby everyone had been hoping for," said 20-year-old student Atsuko Kimizuka, clad in a light-blue kimono.

Newspapers handed out free "extra" editions that were quickly snapped up by people on the streets, many of whom were cheering and shouting "congratulations".

The exclusive Tokyo neighborhood of Senzoku, where Masako, a former career diplomat, lived before her marriage to Crown Prince Naruhito, 41, and where her parents still reside, was festooned with banners proclaiming "Celebration!" and traditional red paper festival lanterns were lit when the birth was announced.

Stores along "Princess Street," as the main shopping area is called, began selling commemorative goods, including a special brewing of rice wine sold in bottles emblazoned with sweet-brier flowers, Masako's imperial crest.

Some domestic media have forecast that the royal birth could grandparents and other Japanese to spend some $113 billion more than usual, spark a wave of marriages in a nation struggling with a low birth rate, and boost public spirits out of the doldrums. Many economists, though, are more skeptical.

Traditionalists had been hoping for a boy to end the shortage of male offspring in the imperial family, the roots of which lie in ancient myths, reaching back through 125 generations in a purported direct line from the Sun Goddess Amaterasu.

The dearth of boys has already prompted politicians to ponder the possibility of changing Japan's strict males-only succession laws.

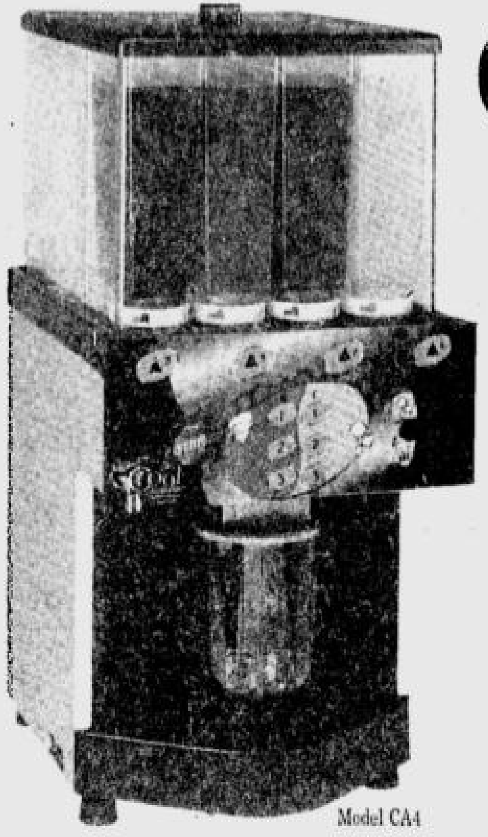
Though Japan has been ruled by female monarchs in the ancient past, the mere thought of a modern version is anathema to some conservatives.

But a recent public opinion poll found that 55.2 percent of Japanese were in favor of an empress, up by 22.9 percentage points from the last survey in 1999. Some 25 percent, however, said they were undecided.

Now that the baby is safely born, tradition dictates a steady procession of ancient rituals.

A week from now, she will be ritually bathed while auspicious texts, written in classic Chinese literary style and wishing her good health and fortune, are read aloud.

On the same day, her name, chosen by the emperor, will be formally announced. *Reuters, AFP*



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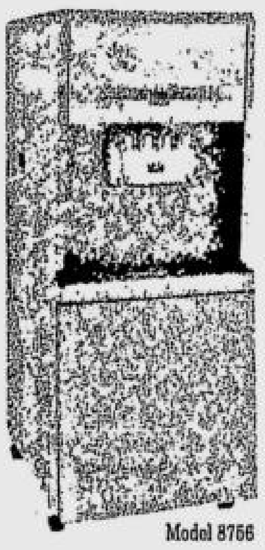

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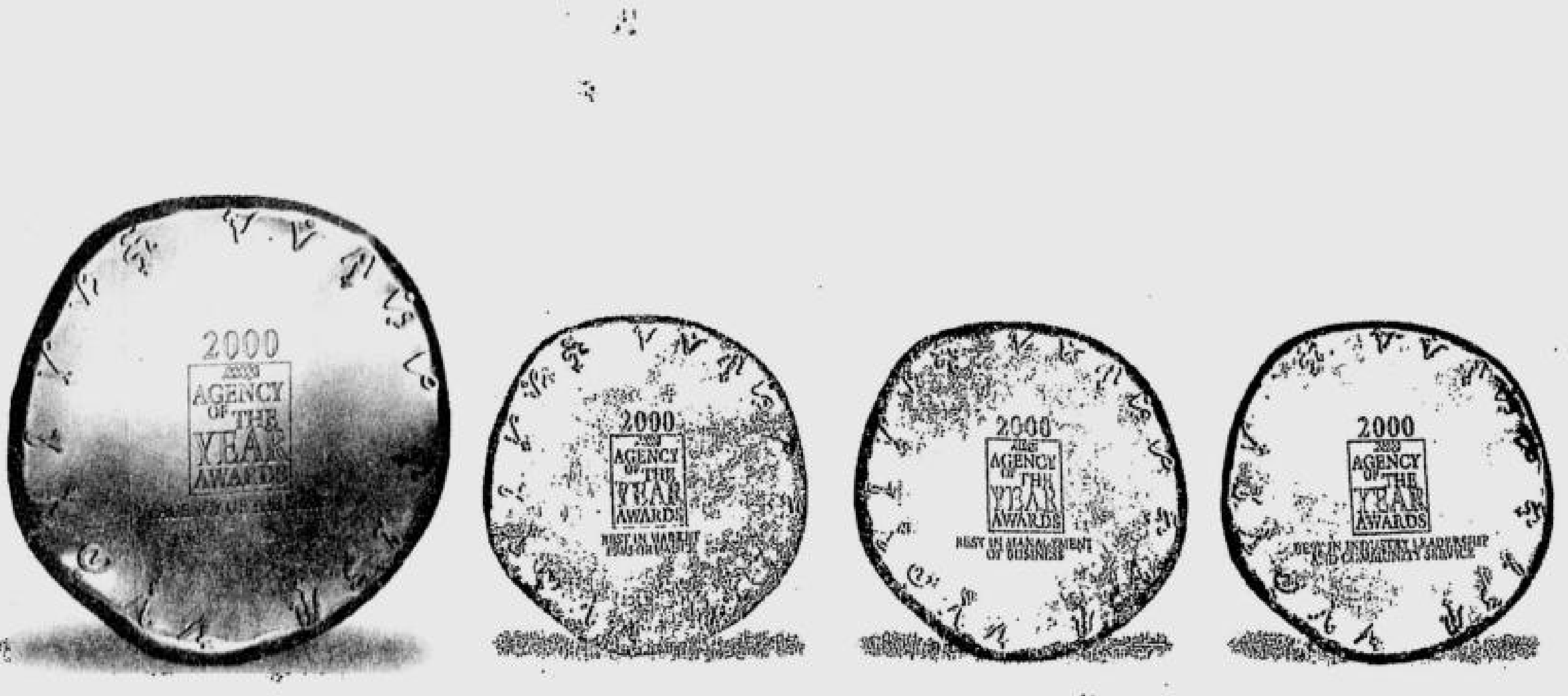

Agency of the Year. Wagi pa sa 3 Category Awards. Bentang-benta.

TRUTH WELL TOLD
McCANN-ERICKSON

A16 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 26°
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/02/01

ROUNDUP

Coops get new funds

KIDAPAWAN CITY—At least 16 agricultural cooperatives in Mindanao and Palawan have received P6.2 million under the Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP). The fund, the PDAP said, is meant to fight poverty in Lanao del Norte, North and South Cotabato, Sarangani, Maguindanao, Palawan, Davao del Sur and Zamboanga City. The Canadian International Development Agency, the PDAP's funding partner, will release P1.4 million to at least seven cooperatives in these areas. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Steel firm reopening pushed

OZAMIZ CITY—Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos, the newly installed chair of the Northern Mindanao regional development council, has vowed to push for the reopening of the National Steel Corp. in Iligan City. He said there was a need to resuscitate the bankrupt state-owned company "to pump-prime the regional economy at a time when bearish sentiments dominate the private sector's business perspective."

Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Truck rams into carnival

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A trailer truck rammed into a roadside carnival in Barangay Balindog here Thursday, leaving at least 26 people injured, including six children. The victims were rushed to different hospitals in the city. Truck driver Bernabe de los Santos, 52, of Tacurong City, surrendered to authorities. He later told radio dxND that he tried to avoid hitting the crowd when the truck went wayward after its brakes failed. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Help for battered women

TACLOBAN CITY—A group here has urged women who are victims of abuse to report their ordeal to authorities. The appeal was contained in pamphlets distributed by members of the Bantay Panimalay to churchgoers on Nov. 25, the International Day of Protest on Women against Violence. Pauline Nayra, Bantay Panimalay chairperson, said their group was willing to provide assistance to abused women.

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Illness stalk inmates

PALO, LEYTE—Thirty-four inmates of the Leyte provincial jail have been sick of various illnesses since last week. Four of the inmates were brought to the provincial hospital. Two suffered from severe cough and high fever and the two others had béri-beri. Jail nurse Thamacus Vallar said the facility has only 17 cells for 586 inmates. It was learned that 35 inmates share one cell.

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Death for rapist brothers

BACOLOD CITY—A regional trial court meted out the death penalty to two brothers for raping their young niece. Silay RTC Judge Felipe Banzon also ordered the brothers to pay the victim P75,000 in moral and exemplary damages. Another brother was found guilty of attempted rape and was sentenced to 18-20 years imprisonment. The girl was first raped in 1995 when she was 8, and the abuse continued until 1999. On Nov. 6, 1999, another brother tried to rape her, but she managed to escape. The victim was able to tell her mother of her ordeal.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Motorcyclist dies

LEGAZPI CITY—A man died while his companion was in critical condition after their motorcycle lost control and hit a big acacia tree in Pili, Camarines Sur, on Monday. Pronounced dead at the Bicol Medical Center was Jorge Peñafrancia, 25, while his friend, Eugenio Labor, was confined for fractures. In Baao town that same day, Margarita Infeliz, 48, and her son Generoso, 16, were injured when their tricycle was hit by an unidentified speeding vehicle while crossing an unlighted portion of the Maharlika Highway about 7 p.m.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Teener found dead

PAGBILAO, Quezon—A 16-year-old boy was found dead on Monday with a bullet wound in the head inside his room in Barangay Mapagong here. Police recovered a .32 cal. Pistol, three bullets and a spent shell inside the room. Love letters and suicide notes were also found near the body. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

VACC seeks Gloria's help in probe of Chan's killing

'Help remove cloud of doubt'

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene in the investigation of the murder of Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said his group has asked for the President's help to remove "a cloud of doubt" raised when former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was implicated in the murder.

"I am not very happy about the progress of this case. I asked the President to look into this. There is too much talk about Chavit's involvement, but we must keep an open mind. There may be other leads. There may be other politicians (who could benefit) from Chan's death," he said.

Chan and his driver Alex Racacho were ambushed along the national highway at Sitio Baoay in Barangay Paing in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, on their way home to this city on Oct. 4. They died instantly.

Ilocos Sur board member Edgardo Zaragoza had linked Singson to the murder. At the time of his death, Chan was looking into a series of provincial disbursements worth P139.6 million from Ilocos Sur's share from tobacco excise taxes during Singson's term, Zaragoza said.

Singson has insisted that the Commission on Audit had cleared him of these charges when he stepped down from office.

"I am not yet sure it is Chavit. Everything about the case is (ambiguous), and we may find the authorities rushing to a conclusion just to please (Malacañang). I want to see a proper investigation and we need the President's eye on this," Jimenez said.

An official advisory report, which was faxed on Nov. 30 to Jimenez, indicated that the Singson angle was crucial.

"Atty. Agustin Chan sent a letter to the former provincial Governor, Luis C. Singson, requiring for the liquidation of cash advances from 1996 to 2000 amounting (to) P124,784,818.17. Operatives of (Task Force Chan led by Sr. Supt. Dominador Ventura of Police Regional Office 1 in La Union) also interviewed (Chan's) friends from Baguio City, Abra and Ilocos Sur inquiring (about) any information (on Chan) and all of them affirmed his integrity and character," the police report said.

"Based on our investigation, we have established (that) the motive of the killing is job-related (and that) the killers are gun-for-hire elements . . . Intelligence operatives are now concentrating on gun-for-hire elements in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte."

HOLIDAY SIDELINE

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Two boys try to earn extra money during the holiday season by shining shoes on Baguio City's sidewalk.

Standardization of firecracker content pushed by manufacturers

BOCAUE, Bulacan—Firecracker and pyrotechnic manufacturers here are pushing for a standardization of the chemical content of firecrackers to avoid fatal accidents during the New Year celebration.

However, members of the Philippine Pyrotechnic Manufacturers and Dealers Association Inc. (PPMDAI) said they would begin the standardization next year as the production season for this year's revelry had ended.

Celso Cruz, PPMDAI president, led the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the standardization move with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bureau of Product Standards last week.

Cruz said time was not enough to implement the agreement as the idea was thought of only this year.

Under the MOA, the BPS will allow the PPMDAI to draw its own set of rules and standards, while the BPS will provide the group with the systems and procedures to implement them.

Cruz said the standardization of the chemical content of firecracker and pyrotechnic products aimed to ensure their safety.

The process would be undertaken gradually every year and would start with pyrotechnic products that are the most common sources of accidental explosions. Among these are the *kuwitis* (skyrocket) and the firecracker called "bawang."

Under the standardization process, other products like the "triangulo," "batibot" and "thunder" will contain only 150 to 200 milligrams of mixed chemicals.

Cruz said that because of varying sizes and shapes of spoons used by manufacturers, there was no way to accurately measure the amount of chemicals in a certain firecracker.

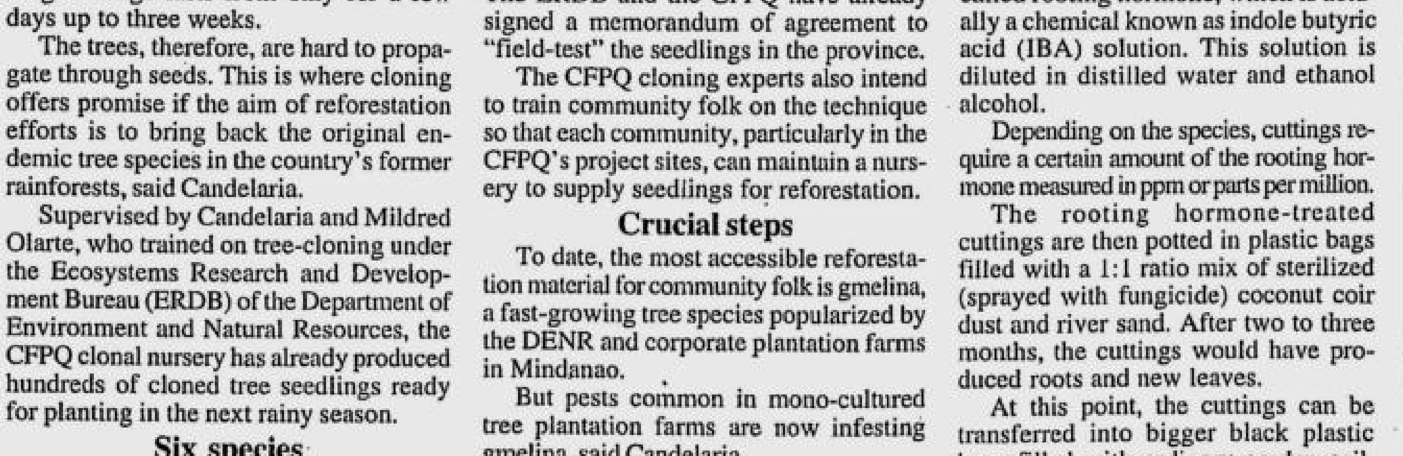
"With standardization, a firecracker containing 150 to 200 mg of chemicals is considered safe. Should it explode accidentally in your hand, the worst injury that you will get is a minor burn in your fingers. No more hands will be mangled or fingers cut," Cruz said.

The standardization process will also cover the length of firecracker fuse and the size of pyrotechnic cylinders and weight of explosive powder.

Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, also chair of the Bulacan Pyrotechnic Regulatory Board, said the standardization aimed to recover the diminishing prestige of the firecracker industry in the province brought about by the yearly accidental explosions. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Quirino foresters clone tree seedlings

BY MAURICE MALANES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



CABARROGUIS, Quirino—It didn't court ethical and moral questions as did the recently reported cloning of a human embryo in the United States.

In fact, foresters see the successful cloning of rainforest trees here as a promising hope in propagating seedlings to reforest logged-over areas in the province, which is the headwater of the vital Cagayan and Magat rivers, the cradles of agriculture in Cagayan Valley.

"Cloning is the fastest way to propagate dipterocarps and produce seedlings for denuded rainforests," said Diomedes Candelaria, forester of the Community Forestry Project-Quirino (CFPQ).

The CFPQ is a Philippine-German community-based forestry management project that had just set up a nursery for cloned tree seedlings here.

Dipterocarps belong to a group of forest trees known for their big timber and superior wood quality. These trees are what make the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia.

Philippine dipterocarps include red and white *lauan*, *saplungan*, *bagtikan*, *guijo*, *dalingdingan and yakal.*

From the 1960s until 1992, corporate loggers with timber license agreements (TLAs or logging licenses) had been felling centuries-old *lauan* and other trees in this province which, according to Agta tribal leader Caloy David, were so big not even five people could embrace one.

But once felled, dipterocarps are hard to replenish because these are hard to propagate. Dipterocarps start flowering and fruiting at the age of 17-18 years, mostly at an interval of two to 10 years, said Candelaria.

White *lauan* and *guijo*, for example, produce seeds every two years and *bagtikan*, every four years. *Yakal* has no fruiting period.

Dipterocarp seeds cannot be stored long. Storage lasts from only for a few days up to three weeks.

The trees, therefore, are hard to propagate through seeds. This is where cloning offers promise if the aim of reforestation efforts is to bring back the original endemic tree species in the country's former rainforests, said Candelaria.

Supervised by Candelaria and Mildred Olarte, who trained on tree-cloning under the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the CFPQ clonal nursery has already produced hundreds of cloned tree seedlings ready for planting in the next rainy season.

Six species

These cloned seedlings come from at least six tree species—*gisok-gisok (Hopea philippinensis)*, white *lauan (Shorea contorta)*, *guijo (Shorea guiso)*, *almon (Shorea almon)*, *bagtikan (Parashorea malaanonan)* and *palosapis (Anisoptera thurifera)*.

The CFPQ was also contracted recently to produce 15,000 cloned seedlings to be used by the Debt for Nature Swap Initiative Project, another German-funded project, in reforesting certain areas in the province.

Using cloned seedlings for reforestation here is still experimental at this point. The ERDB and the CFPQ have already signed a memorandum of agreement to "field-test" the seedlings in the province.

The CFPQ cloning experts also intend to train community folk on the technique so that each community, particularly in the CFPQ's project sites, can maintain a nursery to supply seedlings for reforestation.

Crucial steps

To date, the most accessible reforestation material for community folk is gmelina, a fast-growing tree species popularized by the DENR and corporate plantation farms in Mindanao.

But pests common in mono-cultured tree plantation farms are now infesting gmelina, said Candelaria.

Olarte said that among the 10 steps in tree cloning, the first and fourth steps are the most crucial, although the other steps should not be disregarded. Most of the procedures are done in an enclosed plastic-roofed nursery house.

The first step is getting stem cuttings from healthy stock-plants previously collected from selected mother trees. These mother trees are well chosen because—through cloning—these will become the "carbon copies" of the propagated cuttings.

The fourth is soaking for an hour the base of the cuttings in what Olarte called rooting hormone, which is actually a chemical known as indole butyric acid (IBA) solution. This solution is diluted in distilled water and ethanol alcohol.

Depending on the species, cuttings require a certain amount of the rooting hormone measured in ppm or parts per million.

The rooting hormone-treated cuttings are then potted in plastic bags filled with a 1:1 ratio mix of sterilized (sprayed with fungicide) coconut coir dust and river sand. After two to three months, the cuttings would have produced roots and new leaves.

At this point, the cuttings can be transferred into bigger black plastic bags filled with ordinary garden soil, preferably from a dipterocarp forest, and river sand mixed again at a 1:1 ratio.

The cuttings are then covered with transparent plastic cellophane, which is sealed airtight for two weeks.

The plastic cellophane is gradually opened to acclimatize the cuttings to outside conditions.

The cloned seedlings are gradually exposed to full sunlight as they are watered once a day until they are finally transplanted.

NGOs form 'vigilant groups' to counter robbers

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Nongovernment organizations here have started forming their own "vigilant groups" that will counter robberies in the province.

Joselito Venturina, president of the Rotary Club of Southern Nueva Vizcaya, said the groups were formed to conduct patrol of commercial districts in their area.

According to Venturina, a "vigilant action group," composed of representatives from the NGOs and private organizations, intends to provide visibility of security personnel and intensify measures for the protection of targets of armed robberies.

"We are launching this initiative because of the concern raised by almost all sectors now. We feel the provincial command (of the Philippine National Police) is not doing anything about it," he said.

"These are turning out to be our desperate measures. We have nobody to turn to. The government is in chaos. We do not know whom to trust," he explained.

Venturina said they have submitted a resolution asking Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani to immediately convene the provincial peace and order council (PPOC) and map out possible responses against the rising robbery cases here.

Last week, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla expressed alarm over the deteriorating peace and order condition in the province which, he said, was being highlighted by the unsolved robbery cases in several towns.

"I'm just hoping that the local police will be able to address this, because after (the latest) incident, everyone must already be asking 'Who's next?'" Padilla said.

The calls came on the heels of the latest robbery incident in Bagabag town on Friday that apparently involved the same group tagged in previous robbery cases here.

About eight armed men barged into the compound of NTA Rice Mill in Barangay Quirino on Friday and held up owners Norbert and Thelma Ang. The group took away P80,000 in cash, an undetermined number of checks, a .45 cal. and a 9mm pistol.

The Angs said the armed men, clad in fatigue jackets and black sweaters with "PNP" markings, cut their telephone lines immediately after announcing the holdup. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Buko juice,' soap to treat sex diseases?

DAVAO CITY—The inaccessibility to free medicines from the government and the high cost of medication for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are pushing minors and prostituted women to rely on self-medication with *buko* (young coconut) juice and Perla soap.

Jeanette Tulop, Kaugmaon coordinator of the Adolescents Reproductive Health (ARH) program, said minors, mostly 16 to 18 years old, with STDs were relying on nonprescribed medicines and herbal treatment, like *buko* juice, because the government could not provide them medicines.

Some also rely on Perla soap, she added.

Tulop said people with STDs, especially the poor, rely on free medicines from the STD Aids Unit of the Department of Health.

Dr. Bernadette Sabay, coordinator of the STD-Aids Unit of the DOH, said medicines were not enough. She said the local government units (LGUs) must provide the medicines and the DOH only augment the allocation.

"The regional health office has a minimal budget for STD medicines," Sabay said.

The same is also true in the case of the city government. Dr. Rosita Cueto said there is now a more affordable cost of medication for STD.

Cueto said Triple S-Green for males cost P300 and Triple S-Blue for females cost P325. But she said the poor still could not afford these drugs.

If the city cannot provide the medicines, she refers the patients to an NGO.

Sabay said no study has yet been conducted to prove that *buko* juice and Perla soap are effective against STDs.

"These are hearsay or myths. Maybe Perla soap is for hygiene and *buko* juice is only diuretic. We are not treating the cause," Sabay said.

Tulop said the incidence of STDs, particularly gonorrhea, was high among boys, while fungal infections were common among girls and women.

Based on its referrals, Tulop said STD cases were increasing. Kaugmaon usually focuses its campaign in Sasa, Panacan and Tibungco districts, which are considered high-risk areas because of the presence of ports.

In 1998, Kaugmaon recorded 50 STD cases in these areas, a figure that, Tulop said, was alarming.

Kaugmaon initiates the ARH program to educate minors on the prevention of STDs. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA, AFP swap raps on ₱5-M kidnap ransom

MATI, Davao Oriental—Who got the P5-million ransom paid by the family of a Chinese trader kidnapped in Cateel town on Nov. 19?

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police director, supported the military's claim that it was the New People's Army that got the cash from Chinese trader Yu Ching Kung.

The NPA's Conrado Herredia Command, however, said soldiers of the Army's 8th Special Forces got the money.

But while denying it kidnapped Yu, the NPA admitted that it had held the trader for at least an hour and used him as bait to lure the military.

The rebels said their ploy was "very successful" that they were able to kill 18 of the soldiers who responded.

At least 12 other military personnel, including a junior officer, were wounded when the rebels ambushed them on Nov. 19.

A rebel spokesperson said the trader was turned over to members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit before the ambush.

"There was no reason (for us) to kidnap the Chinese trader as he is a good 'taxpayer' (to the revolutionary movement.) And we are not bandits (who) engage in such activities as it is against our policy. It was the military that kidnapped the Chinese trader," the spokesperson, who did not give his name, said.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the 8th Special Forces, said the military's role was to protect, not harm, the people.

He rejected the NPA's claim that the trader was turned over to militiamen. "It's impossible," Gopico said.

"They are not fighting for a cause. They are pure bandits like (members of) the Abu Sayyaf," Cuy also said of the rebels. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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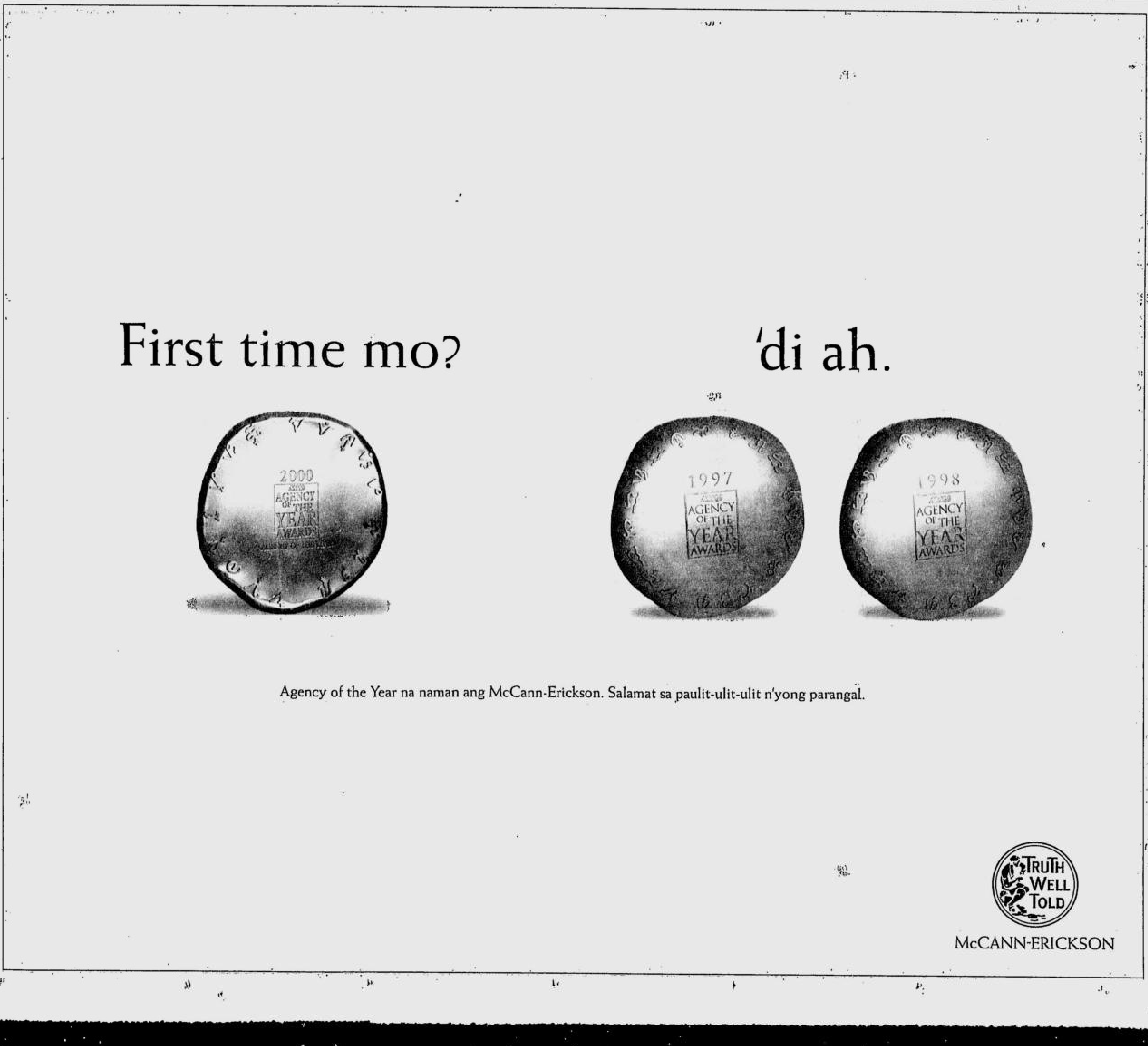

First time mo?
'di ah.
2000 AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARDS
1997 AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARDS
1998 AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARDS
TRUTH WELL TOLD

Agency of the Year na naman ang McCann-Erickson. Salamat sa paulit-ulit-ulit n'yong parangal.
McCANN-ERICKSON

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

The dreamers of Cabatangan

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA

"*El Cabatangan di aton ya!* (Cabatangan is now ours)," declared a jubilant Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, minutes after the last batch of hostages was released, sounding very much as if that was the objective of Wednesday's siege on the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao complex in Zamboanga City.

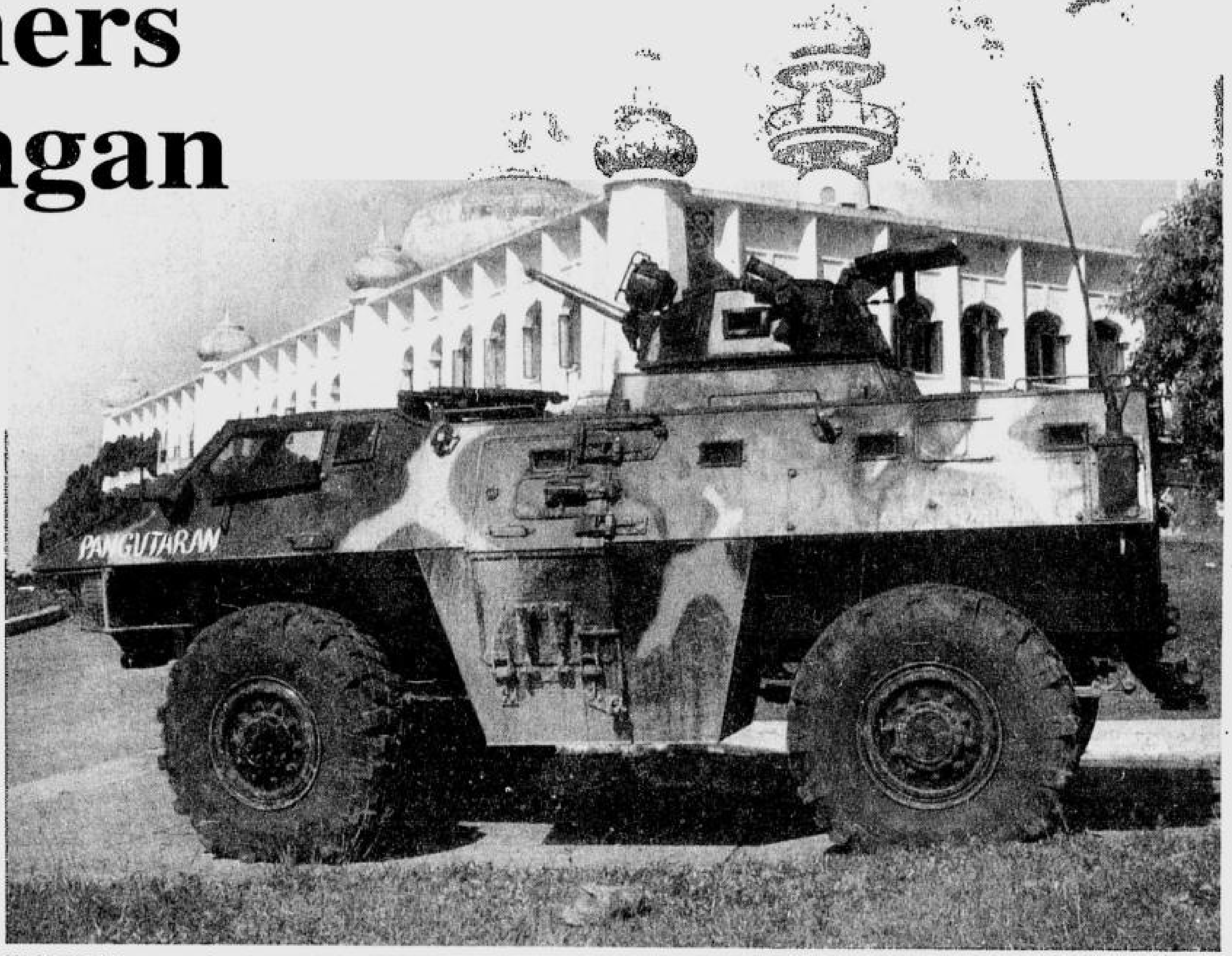
Well, maybe it was.

Almost as soon as the Regional Autonomous Government IX was abolished in 1990, Lobregat strongly proposed the purchase of the property for the city government, and despite equally strong objections by officials of the succeeding ARMM, she relentlessly pursued that seemingly impossible dream.

But now, the good mayor need dream no more, for if reports are to be believed, the transfer of ownership of one man's dream to another's is a "done deal."

Almost buried in the series of overwhelming images of the video footage recording the two-day gun battle and hostage-taking drama that began Tuesday was one frame that fleetingly flashed on the television screen.

But it will always remain in the memory for its sheer beauty and, like all good pictures, for the thousand words that it spoke.



AN ARMORED personnel carrier guards the ARMM building complex in Cabatangan, Zamboanga City. AP

Espaldon

Probably taken before the first shots were fired on that violent day, the image showed the main building with its Moorish design as it stood glistening in the pale light of Omar Khayyam's false dawn, so lovely and tranquil against the backdrop of a still-dark and brooding mountain.

In its pristine whiteness, it seemed totally unaware of the death and destruction that was to be inflicted on it, and to the violation of what it represented as a metaphor of the peace and progress in Muslim Mindanao that was the vision of one man, Romulo Espaldon.

Only a visionary could have conceived carving out a regional government complex from what was, at that time, a wilderness in the foothills of Zamboanga's mountain range.

But at that time, too, Rear Admiral Espaldon was the most powerful man in Mindanao. He was Sowescom (later Southcom) commander, commissioner of the Regional Commission IX, governor of two newly created provinces, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi; and chief of about half-a-dozen other agencies that President Ferdinand Marcos created for the socioeconomic rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas of the Mindanao conflict and its constituency.

Yet with such enormous power in his hands, with its potential to create a megalomaniac out of a lesser being, Espaldon instead used that power to perform magic with his humane governance and "impact" projects, and the pursuit of a vision like the Cabatangan complex.

It was not easy.

Compensation

How to purchase 96 hectares from hundreds of owners, some with land titles dating back to the Spanish period, many with several claimants demanding settlement of their unresolved rights to inheritance, was an almost insurmountable obstacle.

Still, through the numerous court hearings and out-of-court settlements, Espaldon persisted, even seeing to such tiresome details as compensating claims for crops and gardens, real or concocted, which ranged from the amusing to the comical.

"Five banana trees, 10 eggplants, one squash vine, one *ampalaya* vine, ten okras, 20 lines of *pechay*" went one claim written on yellow pad paper.

Finally, after every last okra plant had been paid, Espaldon showed the blueprints to his staff.

The ground plan was unique; the building's architecture, with its dome and minarets, was Middle Eastern poetry in steel, glass and concrete.

The grounds would be laid out in a cloverleaf design with the autonomous government building in the center, and offices of the regional line agencies around the "leaves." This would facilitate delivery of services to the constituents and enhance inter-agency transactions, as well as supervision of the functions of the different agencies.

But the selfless man that he was, Espaldon never meant it for himself, but saw it as his legacy to the people of Western Mindanao.

For no sooner had the ground been leveled for the access and circumferential roads, when Espaldon retired as rear admiral, but with a much more meaningful accomplishment: peace had come to Mindanao.

From the surrender of some of the fiercest MNLF commanders to the signing of the Tripoli Agreement, the recognition of Islamic culture and religion with the construction of numerous mosques and establishment of *madaris*, the observance of Muslim holidays, the codification of the Shari'ah laws, the legalization of the traditional barter trade, the creation of the provinces of Basilan and Tawi-Tawi and countless infrastructure projects, Espaldon was at the helm of government in Western Mindanao.

When the time came for his departure from this once-troubled land—and as an admiral he performed the naval tradition of boarding a small patrol craft which encircled his ship three times before he boarded it for the last time on the trip home—many wept.

It was the highest tribute any man, especially a powerful military officer serving under a dictator during martial rule, could have hoped for.

Tugung

The late Ulbert Ulama Tugung, Espaldon's own choice for chair of the autonomous government in Western Mindanao, implemented the construction of the main building and that of the regional assembly.

"Bob" Tugung, himself another dreamer, saw to it that the interior design and appointments, including the furniture, befitted the dignity of the offices of the regional government. And they did. He even commissioned renowned Muslim artist Saudi Salipyasin to paint a mural on the inside of the dome, depicting the region's history.

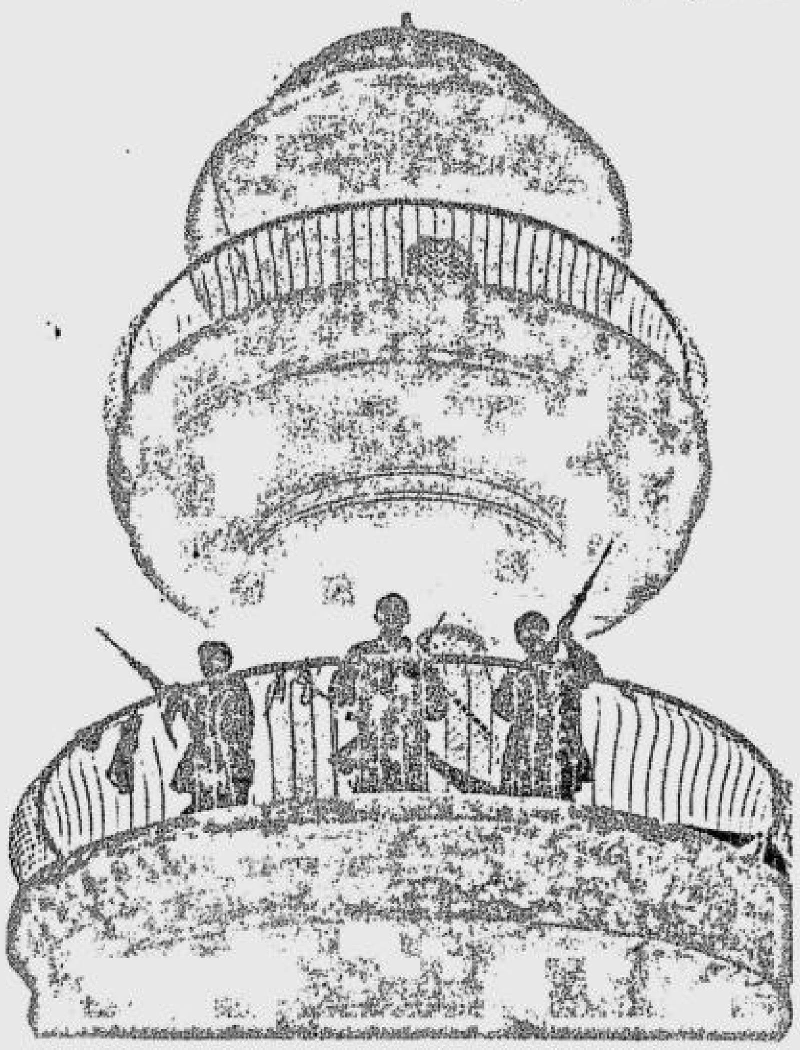
Many, including tourists, came to visit the complex, especially in the mornings and just before sunset to climb up to the rooftop for a breathtaking panoramic view of the city and the sea beyond. Children ran and played in the grounds while their parents enjoyed the clean, cool mountain air.

It seems truly ironic now, that the death of Tugung, who was mercilessly cut down by an assassin's bullet, somehow marked the beginning of the nightmare that was to come.

From Espaldon's policy of reconciliation, "the government shifted to one of appeasement" in its effort to fast-track peace and development in Southern Philippines. To neutralize their demand for secession and independence, leaders of the movement who compromised were awarded high positions in government.

As it turned out, this policy shift had its tragic consequences at the expense of the governed.

May the incoming governor of the ARMM look at Cabatangan through the prism of the aspirations of the Muslims of Western Mindanao, and the vision of the man who spent the best years of his life to make it for them a reality.



SOLDIERS take over the tower of the ARMM building. AP/PAT ROQUE

Why, Madam President?

DUGONG MINDANAW

Dr. Portia R. Mapanao

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- ED.

"WHY the unrest this soon, Madam President?" We, who have been in the forefront of relief and rehabilitation efforts in Pikit and Aleosan towns in North Cotabato, are raising this question.

It has been barely a year and six months since the all-out-war declared by then President Joseph Estrada, and here we are worrying about what will happen since Nur Misuari has been declared a rebel. Will there be another Cotabato-wide war since the Moro National Liberation Front loyalty to Nur Misuari is a reality?

What troubles us is the fact that the evacuees, both Muslims and Christians, have just settled to produce food in their farms. It is true that they are no longer hungry, but the food they produce is not enough to last them for several months.

Why is this so? Many of them have either sold or lost their carabaos when war broke out a year ago. Now, they have to cultivate their farms by hand. Hence, they cannot prepare a wide area.

Despite their difficulties, many of the farmers we assisted with seeds of peanuts, red beans and mongo are paying their loans. But we told them to replant the seeds instead and pay their loan by the second crop.

But if the unrest will again affect us in Cotabato, their farms will be left neglected, for the families will surely flee to areas where they feel safe.

A Christian family whom we assisted to build a house in Purok Santan, Barangay Pagangan, Aleosan, with the help of the Midsayap Habitat for Humanity said they would not run away anymore. They will just *hapa* or lie flat on the cement floor. This house is surrounded by flowers and FAITH (Food Always In the Home) gardens, and is full of vegetables like *alugbati*, eggplant, beans and *camote* tops.

By their house, one will see two sacks hanging for non-biodegradable and biodegradable garbage. All of these are signs that the families are now starting to lead a normal and peaceful life.

There are now 14 houses finished, costing the Habitat for Humanity P55,000 each. These are the houses for the Christian returning residents made of earth block, which is said to withstand the force of bullets.

Fifteen houses for Muslim families are still being built by the Peace Build project of Habitat in Lower Pagangan, Aleosan. Due to the constant rains, the roads have been destroyed. Suppliers of cement, hollow blocks and sand could not deliver their supplies to the building site, which is two kilometers from the national highway.

We have asked the assistance of the Cotabato provincial and Aleosan municipal governments. They have helped with several loads of lime dumped in the deep places, but it is not enough to enable the delivery trucks to get through. Those that were delivered in spite of the rains were unloaded along the way. So, the carabaos with their home-partner owners had to haul the materials.

According to the farmers, not only are they tired but also their carabaos, which are suffering from split hoofs. We were supposed to finish these houses before the Ramadan began last month, but we could not do it. The work has stopped.

With the growing rumors of war, the Christian carpenters are afraid to go back, though they were assured by the Muslim leaders that they are safe since the people know that the Habitat for Humanity is helping them not only to build homes but also to rebuild their lives and hopes after last year's war.

The Corum (Cotabato Rural Uplift Movement), a development agency organized along ecumenical and inter-religious lines based in Midsayap, has been engaged in the relief and rehabilitation efforts of Christian and Muslim families in Aleosan and Pikit.

With the help of friends, schools, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and Roman Catholic churches, food, money and medicines were raised from local and national sources to assist the dislocated families in the evacuation places.

The three agriculturists of Corum taught them how to make FAITH gardens right where they evacuated. We observed that they had a lot of idle time and vacant land around them. We thought that their stay in the evacuation centers could be made productive with nutritious vegetable gardens. The idea in encouraging the growing of vegetables was not only to teach them some skills in gardening while in the evacuation centers but also to prepare them when they go back to their farms.

Indeed, they have continued what they learned and it has helped to produce nutritious vegetables for their diet and health. The rehabilitation of the returned evacuees is ongoing and our agriculturists are teaching them SALT (Sloping Agriculture Land Technology) in farming hilly areas. Now, they can prevent soil erosion in their farms and produce leguminous shrubs that can be source of food for goats and also crops like peanuts, red beans and mongo.

Lately, the Corum distributed seedlings of *calamansi*, guapple, mangoes, coffee and *guyabano* to plant along the spaces in the hills. The Municipal Agriculture Office of Aleosan is also helping with rice seeds since the people can plant now that it is constantly raining.

So, here we are the private sector thru the Corum and the local government units (LGUs) working side by side with the Muslim and Christian farmers and their families to live peaceful and productive lives.

For the health side of the Corum's program in assisting both Muslim and Christian evacuees, we established links with the CARE-Philippines that supported us with medicines. We were able to share these medicines with the local governments of Pikit, Pagalungan, Pagagawan and Aleosan. They were grateful for the medicines since the resources of the local and provincial governments are lacking.

Aside from the medical assistance, which we rendered with the help of the LGU health personnel, we tied up with Dr. Anne Grace Q. Satentes, the physician of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports for the entire province of Cotabato. She was ably assisted by her nurses. They have rendered health services, not only to the elementary school pupils but also to the mothers with sick children in the community.

We are grateful to all our linkages at the national and international levels, family and friends for their help when we needed it most. They responded immediately to our cry for help. May God continue to touch their hearts for the work of rehabilitation is not yet over.

So, Madam President, we should double our efforts to reach out and prevent war. As one streamer along the highway said, "Peace Talks, *Hindi Putok*." People are already tired of running and living in deplorable conditions in evacuation centers.

Let us all work for peace and prevent unrest in all sectors. The agencies you set up to work for peace should work with the local governments, churches and civil society to make peace a reality in Mindanao.

Dr. Portia R. Mapanao (honoris causa), 68, is executive director of the Cotabato Rural Uplift Movement based in Midsayap, North Cotabato. She is also a board member of the Midsayap Habitat for Humanity.

Tribes forced to sign nickel deal, leader claims

Mining firm denies charges, defends medical missions

By Joffele P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Pala'wan tribes affected by a proposed $150-million nickel refinery are being forced to sign a document approving the project, allegedly by some employees of a giant mining company.

In an affidavit executed before the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac), Panama (traditional village chief) Lipin Utadan claimed that people had been coming to their area to force them to sign the document.

Utandan said employees of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC) had been frequenting their village to conduct meetings and medical missions and convince them to give their approval.

They were also given food, including sacks of rice, he said.

The RTNMC management denied the allegations, saying the meetings were part of the process to explain the proposed refinery.

The food and the medical missions, it said, were part of the company obligation to help the communities living near it.

Velma Chollipas, former head of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, and a certain Noel Jagmis, a former employee of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), accompanied the mining firm's employees, Utadan said.

Chollipas and Jagmis allegedly told them they would help the natives in securing their land titles with the Bureau of Lands.

The two, however, were not in the city proper when the INQUIRER tried to reach them to get their comments.

When the tribal people learned of the motive behind the meetings and generosity of the RTNMC employees, they stopped attending the meetings and returned the food to the company, Utadan said.

He said the Pala'wan tribes had already applied for an ancestral domain title in the contested area in Sitio Kulantud, Barangay Iwahig, in Bataraza town.

The village is being proposed as limestone quarry site of the nickel refinery complex. Limestone is one of the major components in extracting nickel ore.

The Pala'wan tribes in other villages directly affected by the refinery complex have already passed a petition against the proposal, saying it will affect not only their environment but also their culture and the next generation.

Caves are also found beneath the proposed quarry site. These are vital part of the natives' culture and tradition.

A law, Republic Act No. 9147, which provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats, was recently enacted.

Utadan said his people would not give up their land which, he stressed, has been in their possession for hundreds of years.

Representatives of Sumitomo Metal Mining Corp., one of Japan's biggest mining firms, are scheduled to arrive in Manila for a meeting with the PCSD, the administrative body in charge of environmental projects in Palawan.

The PCSD asked for the presence of the investors before it grants the endorsement for an environmental compliance certificate covering the projects.

Sumitomo has 90-percent stake in the proposed smelting plant, while its counterpart, RTNMC, has only 10 percent.

DOE pushes use of indigenous energy resources

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The country's geothermal resources could provide the needed energy supply in the countryside if investors would pour money into the development of indigenous energy sources, said Maria Corazon Boaquiña, Department of Energy senior science research specialist.

She said the Philippines has a "big potential" in providing indigenous energy sources as long as there are investors.

The 2001 International Geothermal Plants publication said the United States tops the list in geothermal plant installation with a capacity of 2,775 megawatts in electricity while the Philippines comes second with 1,931 megawatts. Italy ranks third with 785 megawatts.

"We encourage investors to invest in our local energy resource," Boaquiña told reporters here.

Other targets

Aside from geothermal plants, Boaquiña said they are pushing for the use of other alternative power resources to mitigate pollution and reduce the country's dependence and investment on imported fuel.

"We are doing studies and research to (enlighten) the public on the use of alternative fuel because our thrust is to (tap) environment-friendly fuel," she said.

Boaquiña said even President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials are courting foreign investors in their recent trips to China and Indonesia to invest in alternative energy in the Philippines.

Boaquiña said the DOE is also promoting the use of solar energy, natural gas and biogas.

"We know that the local energy resources will affect the gasoline dealers, but the effect will not be that bad. This will pose competition among players themselves, but the bottom line is we want to protect the environment and we do not want to ignore the local players who are involved," she said.

Import savings

Alicia Reyes, DOE engineering department supervisor, said the government could save money in tapping indigenous energy sources.

"If we use indigenous resources, we can save our money from importation. We spend so much for conventional fuel while foreign exchange rate is so high," she said.

She said geothermal plants are among the country's most sustainable alternative power resources.

"Conventional fuel like oil and coal releases toxic substances like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide compared to geothermal power that only uses water to operate," Reyes said.

The government started promoting geothermal power in the country in 1979 with the installation of geothermal plants.

The country has geothermal plants in Tiwi, Albay; Mt. Makiling in Laguna; Leyte; Sorsogon; Mt. Apo in Davao del Sur; and South Cotabato.

Calabarzon workers slam 'starvation pay'

CALAMBA CITY—Some 2,000 workers and slum dwellers in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) area held a torch parade on Friday night to call for the passage of the Living Wage Bill now pending in Congress.

The workers tore up their pay slips "to denounce starvation wages and wage slavery."

The protesters assembled at the Crossing in Calamba, Laguna, where they also commemorated the birth of hero Andres Bonifacio. They were led by the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), the Partido ng Manggagawa and the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lunsod.

Ferdinand Perez, BMP-ST head and union president of ARCYA Glass, said "the plebeian Bonifacio and the Katipunan were betrayed by (Emilio) Aguinaldo and the *ilustrados* to appease their colonial masters. Now, with (President) Macapagal-Arroyo openly endorsing cheap labor as she declared any substantial wage increase as anti-labor, the workers and the poor are again sold at a bargain price to foreign capital."

"In fact, Gloria Arroyo is worse (than) Aguinaldo. While the latter sold the country to a single colonial power, GMA—his heir-apparent—exposed the entire Philippine economy to the dictates of the transnational corporations through globalization," Perez added.

He said the workers tore up their pay slips as their forefathers once tore their *cedulas* (residence certificates) to denounce not only starvation wages but also "our enslavement to the moneyed elite."
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

GMA knew about deal, says archbishop

(From page A1)

City, in keeping with the Church's obligation to "bring people to dialogue."

He said that it was Villaseñor, and not the farmers, who initiated the holding of the talks, and that Ang acted as a "referee (who) was trying to help me clarify things."

Capalla also said he was not expecting businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to attend the meeting, and was surprised to see him there with Ang.

Ang said in a phone interview that the President yesterday invited him to lunch and admitted being greatly bothered by the criticisms directed at her concerning the compromise deal.

The publicist said that he attended the Davao City meeting in response to a "private invitation," and that he felt he was "under no obligation to report it to the President."

"I'm not a lap dog. I speak out my mind. I'm really doing this for the farmers," he said.

Ang said the President complained over lunch that she was "being hit from all sides" as a result of the plan to put the P50- billion Coconut Industry Investment Fund into a perpetual trust fund to rehabilitate the coconut industry.

"I told her to be patient, that this is my personal act," Ang said of the agreement from which the President allegedly stood to earn P20 billion.

The People's Consultative Assembly earlier tagged Villaseñor, Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and the President's brother Diosdado Macapagal II as the ones who had initiated talks with Cojuangco concerning the alleged commission.

Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc., said the President was "beginning to sound like Danding."

He added: "She needs Danding (and has) to reckon with his power and vast resources in the 2004 elections."

But Ang denied this, saying they had no "political agenda" in their efforts to help the coconut farmers.

"Let them impute malice. Call it political endgame, political gambit, but in the end, it is the farmers who will benefit from it," he said.

"THE MAIN concern of the President is how this fund would be used immediately to benefit the farmers because the coconut industry is in crisis."

EDWIN BACASMAS

'Disastrous'

But in former Senate President Jovito Salonga's opinion, it would be "ill-advised and disastrous" for the President to enter into a new compromise deal on the coconut levy fund.

Salonga, the first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, maintained that the fund should be declared public money because this was extracted from millions of coconut farmers from 1973 to 1982 by order of then President Ferdinand Marcos.

"It would be ill-advised and disastrous for the President and her associates to even think of entering into a new coco deal, (which) could be viewed by our people as an attempt to preempt, wittingly or unwittingly, the high court," Salonga said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

The Supreme Court had earlier declared that the fund was "imbued with public interest." But it did not come up with a clear ruling on the ownership.

One of the first things that the Salonga-led PCGG did upon its formation in 1986 was to sequester shares and properties acquired using the coconut levy fund.

These include the 27-percent shares in San Miguel Corp. currently worth around P50 billion, which is the subject of the latest "compromise deal" on the coconut levy fund.

"In my opinion, a government may enter into deals provided truth and justice are not compromised," Salonga said. "The truth is that the coco levy, backed up by military force, was no more than a tax. It is high time the small coconut farmers got what is due them, as a matter of simple justice."

But the President is determined to forge a deal in order to use the fund, according to Tiglao.

He said Ms Macapagal would skirt the issue of whether the fund is public, as claimed by farmers, or private, as claimed by the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (Cocofed).

"The main concern of the President is how this fund would be used immediately to benefit the farmers . . . because the coconut industry is in crisis," Tiglao said yesterday.

He said any settlement to be approved by Malacañang "would have to be cleared by the PCGG and approved by the Sandiganbayan."

Tiglao also said Ang was "not involved" in the talks on the levy fund.

"He was invited by Capalla (to the talks). That's all. He was a witness," Tiglao said, adding that Ang was acting in his "personal capacity" and was not representing any client.

Who's his boss?

Now the question of the PCGG is: Who is Ang really working for?

The PCGG feels Ang has beaten it to the draw because he was able to talk to her earlier than Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, an insider said.

There could be a "conflict of interest" problem, according to PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza, who said Ang could be reporting to the President and to "another client."

Asked who this client was, Carranza said it could be Cojuangco.

A PCGG insider said Ang was able to talk to the President in the morning, affecting the statement she issued later in the day about the proposed compromise settlement, which deviated from the previous government stand that the fund should be recognized as public in character.

The PCGG is still coordinating with Romulo and Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz Jr.

"*Hayupak si* Dante Ang," Carranza said, commenting on his being a slick operator.

The PCGG does not favor Ang's proposal, primarily because it skirts the government condition that the levy fund should be recognized as a public fund.

The commission was even directed on Nov. 23 by the Office of the President to submit a "communication plan" on the government's position on the coconut levy fund.

But the President did not consult it before she made her pronouncement favoring a compromise settlement that would free P50 billion of the fund, but without recognizing its public character.

Still, any proposal on the coconut levy settlement must pass the PCGG's approval, and the commission has yet to determine whether there was anything illegal in the proposal.

Carranza explained that the PCGG was willing to enter into a compromise on the matter as long as the fund would be recognized as public in character.

Still, he said, there were other proposals on the compromise settlement that the Philippine government would be studying.

He said the President could be talking of a compromise settlement that "embodied the position" of the PCGG that the levy fund should be recognized as a public fund.

PCGG Commissioner Victoria Avena said this was a "non-negotiable" issue.

If the compromise agreement did not include this recognition of the character of the levy fund, the government's moral position would be defeated, Avena said.

Memorandum

The President's new stand contradicted a Nov. 23 memorandum issued by her office and signed by Presidential Management Staff chief Victoria Garchitorena.

"This refers to the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) commitment to push for the resolution of the coconut levy issue in favor of coconut farmers," it said.

It added: "Based on our monitoring of the above commitment, we noted the need for government to come up with a strong position maintaining that coconut levy funds are public funds."

"Relative to this, may we suggest that the PCGG and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) implement a communication plan on the government's position on the coconut levy funds and measures pursued to fast-track the resolution of the coconut levy issues as well as government programs to assist the coconut farmers."

The memo said the Office of the President would appreciate "receiving your (the PCGG and the PCA's) report on the matter, as well as on the actions taken by your office on the above concern, on or before Thursday, Nov. 29, 2001."

On Friday, however, the President issued a statement contrary to the previous government position and to the position taken by the PCA.

In the memorandum circular No. 07 of the PCA dated Nov. 16, PCA administrator Danilo Coronacion clarified the "compromise issue of the coconut levy," taking the position of the PCGG.

It said: "In view of the varying statements being published regarding the direction toward the settlement of issues on the pending levy cases, please be guided that the position of the government as articulated by the PCGG, particularly on the essential points are as follows:"

- "That at the present stage of litigation of the coconut levy cases in the Sandiganbayan, a no-compromise policy with any adversarial party must be observed."
- "That the government shall proceed to litigate the issues of the cases on the strength and merit of its claims to be resolved, accordingly, by the Courts."
- "That a compromise agreement, if any, shall be among proper parties to any of the cases and must be premised on a declaration that the coconut levies are public funds for the benefit of the coconut farmers."
- "That all unnamed legal or equitable holders or beneficiaries of shares, monies, properties or assets derived from or funded by the coconut levies must be disclosed and shall be made parties to and shall sign any such compromise agreement."

Farmers seek full disclosure of coco deal

(From page A1)

director of the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI), said the President should be "extra cautious" in striking a deal with Cojuangco.

"She might suffer the fate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and former President Joseph Estrada," Royandoyan said in a phone interview. "She should remember that Marcos and Estrada, whom Cojuangco both supported, were both ousted."

He added that instead of forging a deal, Ms Macapagal should declare as a public fund the P50 billion comprising 27 percent of shares in Cojuangco's San Miguel Corp. and pursue pending cases against the businessman.

In Lucena City, Rene Cerilla, president of the Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon (Ugma-Quezon), said the President's apparent favorable response to the proposed settlement was "the last nail that sealed the casket of doom" of the millions of small coconut farmers nationwide.

Cerilla warned of "a Christmas of protest," saying that most of the "genuine coconut farmers" would spend the coming days planning mass actions against the planned compromise deal.

"We're now back to page one of the protest mobilization manual," he said in a statement.

Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, a member of the multisectoral task force that has long been seeking the return of the coconut levy fund to the farmers, said that "if the executive order to be issued by the President will be a carbon copy of Estrada's own EO, I'm afraid the majority of the farmers will not be amenable to it."

He was referring to Estrada's EO 313, which also provided for a P50-billion perpetual trust fund to start the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

"We already rejected that kind of EO in the past because it would strongly favor the interests of Mr. Cojuangco, especially with the contentious provisions attached to it," Tañada said in a phone interview.

'Notorious landlords'

The KMP's Ramos said his group was opposed to the very idea of a compromise between the farmers and "notorious landlords" like Cojuangco and Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat.

He said the fact that Malacañang, through Ang, had made yet a new attempt at compromise showed that "it is all right to deal with thieves."

Ramos said the congressional inquiry should determine, for example, exactly how much the coconut levy fund had grown.

It should also "expose what really transpired" in the meetings leading to the Sept. 27 signing of the compromise deal among farmers' groups, the Lobregat-led Philippine Coconut Producers Confederation (Cocofed), and Cojuangco, he said.

In a statement, the KMP assailed Cocofed for "pretending to be a representative of small farmers just to cash in on the P130-billion fund."

But in tossing the matter to Congress, the KMP is unwittingly bringing the issue to the turf of Speaker Jose de Venecia, one of the most vocal proponents of a compromise deal on the levy fund.

As soon as he assumed the House leadership, De Venecia proposed in his so-called 747 economic plan an out-of-court settlement among farmers' groups, the government and Cojuangco.

He said the money that the government stood to get from the deal could contribute to the counterpart fund the country needed in order to finally gain access to $12 billion in overseas development assistance funds mainly from Japan and Europe.

'Up to the court'

Tañada, now president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, questioned the planned auditing process, the automatic share allocation for Cocofed, and the fate of the balance of the coconut levy fund after the allocation of P50 billion as perpetual trust fund.

"The rest of the coco levy fund remains in the final disposition of the court," he said, adding that the court should now finally resolve the issue for the benefit of all the members of the dying coconut industry.

Tañada said that if the executive order to be issued by the President would be patterned after the last draft order agreed upon by the multisectoral force but rejected by Estrada, "that would be amenable to the coconut farmers" and he would "be supportive of the agreement."

And while the court is settling the issue, "the government has to find ways to help the coconut farmers," he said.

According to Tañada, hundreds of millions of pesos are untapped in the UCPB Foundation and the Agriculture Competitive Enhancement Fund.

He said this could be used by the government in setting up a mechanism that could immediately attend to the farmers' urgent needs.

Tañada, however, sees one stumbling block to the "significant amount waiting there."

"(The funds) are still being controlled by the appointees of former President Estrada, aside from their being under a restraining order from the court," he said, adding:

"But if the Macapagal administration is really interested, it can tap the funds by just using its persuasive powers."

Asked what could be the reason the administration could not work for the passage of legislation that would declare the coconut levy fund as a public fund considering its control of both chambers of Congress, Tañada said: "Are you sure it has control? *Malakas din ang kabilang panig* (The other side is equally strong)."

Jun Lontok, vice president of the Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, called on allies of coconut farmers to close ranks for the planned nationwide protests.

"The small coconut farmers need all the support they can muster for the protest actions. Politicians, religious, nationalist business groups, students and other support groups—they can help us in one way or another," Lontok said.

"Every Filipino should oppose the planned compromise deal," he added. "If the President can turn her back on the long struggle of society's biggest sector, what more the concerns of other marginalized groups? This time, it will not be the battle of the coconut farmers alone. Every Filipino should treat this upcoming protest campaign as vital for his own survival."

'Tragic'

Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform (COIR) Movement Inc., echoed the PPI's Royandoyan, saying "it would be tragic" for the administration to consider "a lopsided settlement" with Cojuangco.

"More, it would be disastrous for this administration to consider perpetuating itself in power through an alliance with Cojuangco. Marcos had Cojuangco, and so did Estrada," Faustino said in a statement.

The PPI and COIR are members of Kilos-Saka, a nationwide alliance of coconut farmers opposed to any settlement of the levy dispute.

Royandoyan asserted that any settlement would negate the coconut farmers' quest for justice.

He pointed out that the bottom line in any deal would be the dropping of charges against Cojuangco and Lobregat, who, he said, were facing civil cases before the Sandiganbayan for the alleged plunder of the levy fund.

"The issue here is social justice," Royandoyan said, adding that Cojuangco and Lobregat should never be allowed to go scot-free.

Faustino also said any settlement on the levy fund would not benefit the coconut farmers.

"The net effect will add to legitimizing the grip of Danding Cojuangco and cohorts on the multibillion-peso funds, to the detriment of the beneficial owners—the small coconut farmers and farm workers," he said.

Royandoyan said that instead of considering a deal, the President should declare the P50 billion as a public fund and claim it for the government and the coconut farmers and, at the same time, pursue the cases against Cojuangco.

"There is no doubt that the coco levy funds and assets are public as they were collected by the state in the form of taxes to benefit the coconut farmers and the coconut industry," added Faustino.

To avert speculations over the proposed deal, Royandoyan said the President should publicly declare support for the "no-compromise" position of Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Yorac has repeatedly said that there would be no compromise agreement in all cases involving the plunder of the coconut levy fund.

Faustino admitted that the planned compromise settlement had caused a division among the farmers.

But Royandoyan belittled the farmers' groups who had signed the deal at Cojuangco's residence in Davao City on Sept. 27, saying they were "only a small group."

"They were the same group that supported Estrada's EO 313," he said.

'No secret deals'

Even Sen. Gregorio Honasan challenged Malacañang to divulge to the public the provisions of the proposed compromise settlement before any move to legitimize the deal takes place for transparency.

Honasan, who was in Naga City yesterday to attend a gathering of the Guardians, said the President was not allowed by law to enter into a secret deal with anyone.

"Will the release of the P50-billion coconut levy fund redound to the benefit of the greatest majority of the coconut farmers?" Honasan said. "Let us erase the speculations of secrecy because even the President cannot enter into a secret deal with chairman Cojuangco, or even the United States."

Honasan said he would ask the Senate to call for an investigation of the matter.

The Bicol Coconut Planters Association Inc. (BCPAI) said the genuine coconut farmers were doubtful of the proposed deal.

The BCPAI said that Lobregat was part of the Marcos dictatorship that inflicted the levy on the farmers, and that she had already benefited from it.

With a report from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Women demand justice for Carlson

(From page A1)

Task Force Justice for Carlson spearheads the cornerstone laying at 4 this afternoon. Expected to attend are women, victims of domestic violence and women's rights advocates. They will demand that Congress and Malacañang render justice for Carlson by enacting a law against domestic violence.

Carlson, the endearing TV and movie comedienne, was married at the prime of her career to the prominent Ilocano politician, Rodolfo Fariñas, then Ilocos Norte governor. He is currently a congressman.

In 1997 after years of trying to get help, she came out publicly to reveal her anguish at the hands of an abusive husband. She had six children by Fariñas. She was taken under the wing of a women's group but later reconciled with her husband. Last week, she leaped to her death from the family condominium in San Juan.

Jolted by Carlson's suicide, the women's groups are mounting a campaign to pass the Anti-Awir Bill or the Anti-Abuse of Women in Intimate Relations.

Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza said she co-authored the bill with Rep. Bella Angara-Castillo. The proposed measure has gained the support of even male members of the House.

Women attending the solemn rites this afternoon have been requested to wear a black or red dress and a black veil to mourn the death of Carlson.

Elizabeth Angsioco, national chair of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines, said the Carlson cornerstone would be later converted into a monument for abused women. The cornerstone will be placed at the Visayas Ave. side of Quezon City's premier park.

For other women

Various women's groups under Sibol, or the Sama-Samang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan, held a press conference yesterday, the day Carlson was buried, to "affirm that she was indeed abused by her husband for many years despite the denials of Fariñas."

Evalyn Ursua, lawyer of the Women's Legal Bureau who helped rescue Carlson in 1997, said Carlson had wanted to survive her life of violence in order to help other abused women.

"I am doing this for other women . . . so that other women will not suffer the same abuse . . . the same fate," she quoted Carlson's interview by the TV program, Probe Team, in 1997 when she first went public about the beatings she had endured.

Ursua said the bill sought to penalize physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and economic abuse of women by their husbands or intimate relations.

She said the absence of a law against domestic violence was one of the reasons Carlson and many other battered women had not found help in the courts, the government and other institutions.

Ursua said Carlson could not have killed herself if such a law was in place because she could have filed a criminal case against Fariñas, asked for protection and support while her case was pending and enjoyed the right over her personal possessions and her children.

Maza enjoined women's advocates to lobby to their respective congressmen for the passage of the landmark bill.

"Let this bill be passed now. That is the demand of women and I support that demand," she said in a press conference yesterday.

Survivors' stories

Jovi Bacalzo, who described herself as a survivor of domestic violence, narrated during the press conference how the barangay council, the police and even the Church had failed to help her.

Regularly beaten by her husband in Cebu, Bacalzo said the police even accused her of having an illicit relationship with another man and of being a blabbermouth when she tried to seek help.

When she asked them to arrest him, she was sent off by the police who told her no arrests could be done during Saturdays and Sundays because those were not office hours.

Tess, another survivor, spoke of being nearly killed when she returned home to get her youngest son. Her husband, director of a big pharmaceutical firm, beat her for two hours and tried to drown her in a washing machine.

Recalling her own experience, she said Carlson's suicide was self-preservation.

Bacalzo and Tess found help in the Women's Crisis Center.

"I'm calling on Congress, specifically Speaker Jose de Venecia whose forte is forming coalitions. Why don't you use that now to leave a landmark law as your legacy?," said Tess, who said she almost became a writer for "Pira-pirasong Pangarap" TV show of the Speaker's wife, Georgina.

Beatlemania lives on

(From page A1)

Harrison's death has proven that the world is still mesmerized by the Fab Four, their irreverent manner and their magical talent.

US network and local news bulletins led with Harrison's death from cancer in the Los Angeles home of a friend, while radio stations devoted hours of airtime to musical tributes to him.

The death of the guitarist, composer, singer and spiritualist was the first event to displace the US-led campaign against terrorism as the top story of the hour here since the deadly Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Spontaneous outpourings of grief erupted across the world from London to Los Angeles, with shrines to Harrison and the pop quartet springing up in London's Abbey Road, New York and Hollywood's walk of fame.

"The fact that his death commands such popular and media interest so long after the Beatles' heyday reflects the tremendous impact they had on youth culture and society," said pop culture expert David Sefton.

"The Beatles are still around as a musical force; they're still selling records 30 years after they split up," said Sefton, director of arts at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

RFINO L GONZALES II/INQUIRER NEWS SERVICE

MOURNING the death of Beatle George Harrison, his fans light candles and smoke pot at Strawberry Fields, a section of New York's City Central Park.

When the Beatles toured America for the first time in 1964, they sparked one of the biggest spontaneous popular eruptions of emotions ever, causing them to be loved and loathed in almost equal measures by different generations.

Screaming teenagers fainted and tearfully scooped up swatches of earth trod upon by the immortal foursome at airports and concert venues across the country, as their parents warned of the evil the longhaired icons were importing.

"They were an instant and genuine global phenomenon," Sefton said. "Now artists try to pay millions to create the same popular effect, but no one has really succeeded like the Beatles did."

The Fab Four's secret: They were "damn good musicians," Sefton said.

Groups like Oasis are still imitating them a generation after they left the stage.

The Beatles also burst onto the scene at the cusp of a major social shift from the wartime generation, offering pop music with a brand new sound that was tailored to young people and not their parents, experts said.

"They seemed slightly dangerous, slightly wild, and they opened the door to a culture that was different that everyone else followed up on," Sefton said.

They appeared so subversive—particularly for their avowed pacifism during the Vietnam War era—that the Federal Bureau of Investigation opened a file on singer John Lennon when he immigrated to the United States, while some US radio stations refused to play Beatles records.

The Beatles also managed to tap underground currents such as the hippie and anti-war movements and a fascination with oriental religion.

They drew these currents up to the surface in works such as "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band."

They showed that rock music could be bigger, broader, more complicated and more diverse than anyone had imagined, historian Jon Wiener said.

"Every Beatles album was a cultural event, every Beatles album broke new creative ground," he said.

"The Beatles surprised and challenged their audiences and George was a crucial part of that, mostly for his experimentation with eastern music, eastern musical instruments and themes from Eastern religion." *AFP*

Yes, Dulce . . .

(From page A1)

her memories of Christmas, who had reached out to her with caring and giving.

Bringing out her collection during the holidays is always a trip down memory lane. As Saguisag unpacks each item, she remembers the giver. "Part of the joy of unpacking is remembering friends who gave you that item." It takes her two to three days to set up her stuff. Because there's much joy in remembering.

What makes her Christmas collection special is that they were started by people who are close to her or have affected her life and continue to be in her life.

For instance, a client of her husband gifted her with the first Santa figure in her collection. "The client gave me a big Santa Claus one year, and then gave me another the next year. My sister from the states gave me one also, and friends started noticing I have them, and gave me more," she narrates. Good friends feel the need to let her know whenever they see unique Santa figures.

The snoring Santa is her first purchase.

Among other unusual Santas in the Saguisag collection are jolly St. Nick as a policeman, a football player, a baseball player and a mailman. She has a laughing Father Christmas and a serious one. She has him dressed in traditional red, and in unconventional blue and in white. She has a 3-foot tall Santa from the States, and a little wooden Santa "matryoshka," wooden dolls from Russia that open up to uncover smaller, identical dolls inside.

The rest of her collection Saguisag found in the country. She has a troll Santa, a tall, slim wooden Santa, and a giant Santa face with a brown beard made from abaca.

Big hit

Not surprisingly, this collection is a big hit among her visitors. "Kids love it," she says. That is why it occupies one room in the Saguisag residence complete with Santa Claus throw pillows.

While Santa Claus has reigned in the Saguisag household during the holidays, Saguisag's angels had took over her office while she was a Mondragon executive until she retired after working there for 15 years. Now, her angels are home.

Angels are especially precious to her because she has put her faith in them since she was a child. "I'm a firm believer in angels. I grew up in a Catholic school and we pray to angels every day. I always pray to my guardian angel," Saguisag says.

Saguisag cites among her favorites a terracotta cherub that a friend gave her when she got sick in the United States. So precious is this one that she brought it all the way home to the Philippines. Another has a smooth, bald head and plays a violin, which she likes because it's unusual to see angels with no hair. And while she mostly collects cherubim, she is charmed by the grandmother and a grandfather angel in her collection.

Mini-UN

The Nativity scenes, locally known as "belens," are like a mini-United Nations representing around 15 countries.

Among them is a 2-foot-tall, four-tiered wooden piece with a propeller at the top, which she brought in Germany. On each tier are placed the manger, The Three kings, the animals and the angels. "I hand-carried it in the plane because it was so delicate and I didn't want to break it," Saguisag recalls.

The others include a Mexican Nativity, which her sister, who also collects belens, has given her, with its figures dressed in lilac and pink; a Peruvian Nativity placed inside a round, hollowed-out shell (a "gourd," she says); two American Indian interpretations; and of course, a Filipino one. All are in costumes representing their country.

She also has a Nigerian, a Kenyan, a Moroccan, a Chilean and a Bolivian belen. One of the more fascinating belens for her is the one from Burma. "They're not a Catholic country so they probably don't celebrate Christmas, and yet, they have a belen," she marvels.

The lady herself is a marvel. "The light with which childhood fills the world is not extinguished" as she keeps faith with her collection, a symbol of love and generosity.

Serge: Gov't asked my help in kidnapping

(From page A1)

Lamitan, Basilan, for a fee, the President took the military's side.

Osmeña said he believed Ms Macapagal was beholden to the military because it helped her come to power by abandoning ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"She feels beholden to them and I think she is also their hostage and so she is very afraid to displease them," he said.

Osmeña also said that he had received reports the military got a share of the ransom but could not give an exact amount because, he said, he did not have "direct knowledge" as to who got the money.

He said the P17 million was used to free Romero and his companion, Maria Rizza Santos, in Lamitan on June 2. Eight-year-old RJ Recio was also released as a "bonus" and "the (Macapagal administration) knew that," he said.

The bandits seized Romero and 19 others at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.

Romero has always denied he, or his family, paid ransom. The military had also denied it received any ransom money.

But Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar had claimed that Romero paid his captors at least P10 million in ransom although this was done without the knowledge of the government.

Akbar said he had heard rumors, which he admitted he could not substantiate, that the actual ransom paid was P25 million but the Abu Sayyaf got only P10 million and the person who negotiated the ransom probably got the rest.

Yet another story from yet another source had said that Romero really escaped during the military siege in Lamitan.

But, the story went, Romero later paid the bandits P3 million as they had previously agreed upon because he was "honoring his commitment" to his captors.

Hanging in there

In Little Rock, Arkansas, the mother of American hostage Gracia Burnham said her daughter and the latter's husband, Martin, were fairly upbeat despite their five-month captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Betty Jones, who recently received letters from the Burnham couple, said the couple did not seem as somber in their letters as they had appeared in the video interview conducted by journalist Arlyn de la Cruz.

"I think a good term to describe their attitude would be 'hanging in there,'" Jones told the Jonesboro Sun newspaper.

Jones said Dela Cruz took four letters from the Burnhams after she videotaped the interview and then turned these over to officials in the Philippines. The letters were sent to the Burnhams' missionary group, New Tribes Mission, which mailed them to Jones.

"Even our captors are not optimistic about our release," the couple wrote on a yellow legal pad, Jones told The Associated Press on Friday.

However the couple said they were still hoping to be released.

"We haven't given up and we know that God has preserved us these many months for a reason. We believe it is so that we can one day take our places back in our family," they wrote.

The couple also wrote that they had received food from their missionary group.

"We had just prayed for some real food when the box came for us out of the blue," Jones read from the letters. "We made that list of requests never imagining it would be filled. God is good and we love him still, even come what may."

The couple said they shared their food with their captors.

"There are many here, I can't give you the number, but it is not possible to keep all (the food). We feel God is pleased to share" the food with the bandits, the letter said.

Despite the news from the couple that their release did not seem likely, Jones said he had not lost hope.

"We have so many friends praying," Jones said. "If you look at it realistically, it doesn't seem realistic, but I am very hopeful."

The Burnhams are the only remaining Americans taken hostage from Dos Palmas. With them is Deborah Yap, a nurse who was abducted at the height of the Lamitan siege. The remains of the third American, Guillermo Sobero, were found in October.

The video of the Burnhams showed the couple handcuffed and surrounded by heavily armed bandits. Gracia Burnham was wearing a Muslim-style head covering.

The Burnhams said they had developed mouth sores from lack of nutrients, relying on scarce supplies of cassava and bananas.

"It takes me days to recover every time I hear even a twig snap," said Ms Burnham, sobbing. "I wake up hearing gunshots in the middle of the night."

Martin Burnham had a heavy beard and had lost considerable weight.

"My parents, I know, and my brothers and sisters . . . they're surrounding my children with love, but there's no substitute for parents, and we would like to be there," he said, the large barrel of an artillery piece mortar shown beside his head as the camera panned. *With a report from AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 2, 2001
1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: **Is 2:1-5**

The vision of Isaiah, son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the last days, the mountain of Yahweh's house shall be set over the highest mountains and shall tower over the hills.

All the nations shall stream to it, saying, "Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths. For the Teaching comes from Zion, and from Jerusalem the word of Yahweh.

He will rule over the nations and settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not raise sword against nation; they will train for war no more. O nation of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

2nd Reading: **Rom 13:11-14**

You know what hour it is. This is the time to awake, for our salvation is now nearer than when we first believed; the night is almost over and day is at hand. Let us discard, therefore, everything that belongs to darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. As we live in the full light of day, let us behave with decency; no banquets with drunkenness, no prostitution or vices, no fighting or jealousy. Put on, rather, the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not be led by the will of the flesh nor follow its desires.

Gospel: **Mt 24:37-44**

Jesus said to his disciples, "At the coming of the Son of Man it will be just as it was in the time of Noah. In those days before the Flood, people were eating and drinking, and marrying, until the day when Noah went into the ark. Yet they did not know what would happen until the flood came and swept them away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. Of two men in the field, one will be taken and the other left. Of two women grinding wheat together at the mill, one will be taken and the other left.

Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Just think about this: if the owner of the house knew that the thief would come by night around a certain hour, he would stay awake to prevent his house to be broken into. So be alert, for the Son of Man will come at the hour you least expect."

Commentary:

How nice it is to have a life of routine! We accept that everything in this world will continue to follow its normal course: the sun will shine, we shall take our breakfast, we shall go to work, the children will go to school, and so forth and so on. The news about catastrophes and changes always seem remote to us. But the truth is that this world, our world, needs a drastic change. It does not mean that Jesus' coming would signify the destruction of the world. Nothing of this sort. God cannot destroy his own creation. Rather, Jesus opens our eyes that we may see beyond our own little world. That we may realize that nothing will remain the same for those who abide in the kingdom of God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PERSONAL LIBERTY)—Kidnapping or serious illegal detention—Under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code, kidnapping or serious illegal detention is committed when the following elements of the crime are present: (1) that the offender is a private individual; (2) that he kidnaps or detains another, or in any manner deprives the latter of his liberty; (3) that the act of detention or kidnapping must be illegal; and (4) in the commission of the offense, any of the following circumstances is present: (a) that the kidnapping or detention lasts for more than 5 days; or (b) that it is committed simulating public authority; or (c) that any serious physical injuries are inflicted upon the person kidnapped or detained or threats to kill him are made; or (d) that the person kidnapped or detained is a minor, female or a public officer. The primary element of the crime of kidnapping is actual confinement, detention and restraint of the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Tantoy, Jr. v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 141427, April 20, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Fishing tourney at Anilao

SCUBA divers will receive an early holiday treat from Eagle Point Resort in Anilao Batangas when the Beuchat Fish ID Dive Adventure reels off on Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16. The event will be held in cooperation with Dive Buddies, Safety Stop Dive Shop and 99.5 RT. For registration, please call 920-8505 and 0917-9368895.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Lourdes 9-ball meet Dec. 8

THE LSQC Batch 1982 Foundation is hosting a 9-ball billiards meet on Dec. 8 at Side Pocket Billiards along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. The event is open to all alumni of Lourdes School of Quezon City. For more details, please call Adriano Lecaros (9241204/09192356844) or George Escarraga (7262069/09175354252).

BATANG PINOY

4,000 bets start medal quest

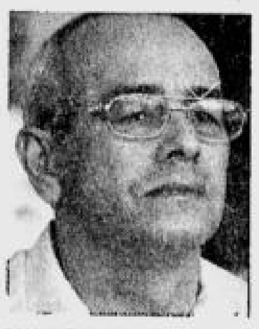
By MARC ANTHONY REYES

BACOLOD CITY — With a plea to focus time and energy in sports development instead of engaging in useless bickering, Interior and Local Secretary Joey Lina declared open the 3rd Philippine National Youth Games-Batang Pinoy yesterday at the crowded Panaad Sports Complex here.

Pinch-hitting for President Arroyo who begged off due to more pressing national concerns, Lina also exhorted some 4,000 participants — 12-year-olds and below — to give it their best shot on their "first step toward sporting glory."

Unfortunately, controversies marred Day 1 as the Philippine Karatedo Federation reportedly threatened to pull out its technical officials from the Games after its president, Eduardo Ponce, was denied accreditation due to the confusion over the long-standing leadership dispute in the association.

That would jeopardize the karatedo event, which stakes seven gold medals and is one of the most popular events here.



TUASON

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason also talked about the "problems afflicting local sports," referring to the rifts among sports leaders which hounded sports news lately.

He also stressed the need to "forge new directions for Philippine sports" during the opening ceremony.

Preliminary events started in lawn tennis, chess, football, badminton, baseball, softball, table tennis and volleyball though the gold medal events will only unfold today in different venues in Bacolod City.

Maria Keisha Yvet Mercado, a six-year-old swimmer from Gen. Santos City, unfurled the festivities by lighting the Games Urn.

She was assisted by torch runners Kezia Elize Sarmiento (6, swimming) of the National Capital Region and Delia Angelo Cordero (6, swimming) of Rizal and table tennis' Daniel Jay Torrmis, who at five years old is the youngest competitor here.

Scoring early victories in baseball were Misamis Oriental, which crushed Northern Samar (16-0), Negros Occidental which clobbered Cotabato (15-0), Santiago City which blasted Laguna (16-0) and Gen. Santos City which whipped Eastern Samar (6-3).

In football, Gen. Santos, Cotabato Province, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Laguna, Cotabato City and Talisay prevailed over their respective first-round rivals, while Batangas, Cebu City and Silay-Negros edged Northern Samar, Pangasinan and Laguna, respectively, in girls volleyball.

Sultan Kudarat downed Mandaluyong (2-0) in girls lawn tennis, while Baguio City, Olongapo and Cotabato Province bested Tacurong City, Northern Samar and Las Piñas City, respectively in boys lawn tennis.

ICTSI wallops Blu, seizes solo PBL lead

By DENNIS EROA

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc.-Archers continued its giant-killing ways, ambushing Blu Detergent, 65-54, and grabbing the solo leadership in the PBL Challenge Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

The Archers zoomed to an early 20-point lead (37-17) and then leaned on the steady presence of veteran Dominic Uy, Willy Wilson, BJ Manalo and Bernzon Franco to repulse the Detergent Kings' fourth quarter rally.

Hardly given a second look at the start of the conference, the win was a fitting follow-up to ICTSI's double overtime, 88-83, upset of bemedalled Welcoat Paints last Thursday.

The Archers improved their record to 5-1, while the Detergent Kings, who missed 14 of 23 free throws, dropped to second with a 5-2 slate.

In the second game, Ateneo-Pioneer outplayed Kutitap Toothpaste, 75-61, for its second win in six games.

Kutitap, which failed to draw big games from main men Cyrus Baguio and Nino Gelig, is now tied with Ana Freezers at 3-4.

Uy, a La Salle stalwart, scored 14 points but grabbed 16 rebounds as ICTSI refused to crumble under grinding pressure. With Edwin Bacani hitting 11 points, the Detergent Kings trimmed the deficit to 8, 48-40, but faulty free throw shooting and poor selection of shots did them in.

"We came out aggressive," said ICTSI mentor Franz Pumaren. "Our plan to hold their output down worked."

Scores:

ICTSI-ARCHERS 65—Uy 14, Wilson 13, Franco 12, Manalo 11, Cuan 4, Sta Maria 4, Daep 3, Cortez 2, Magsumbol 1, Ramos 1, Omolon 0, Castro 0.

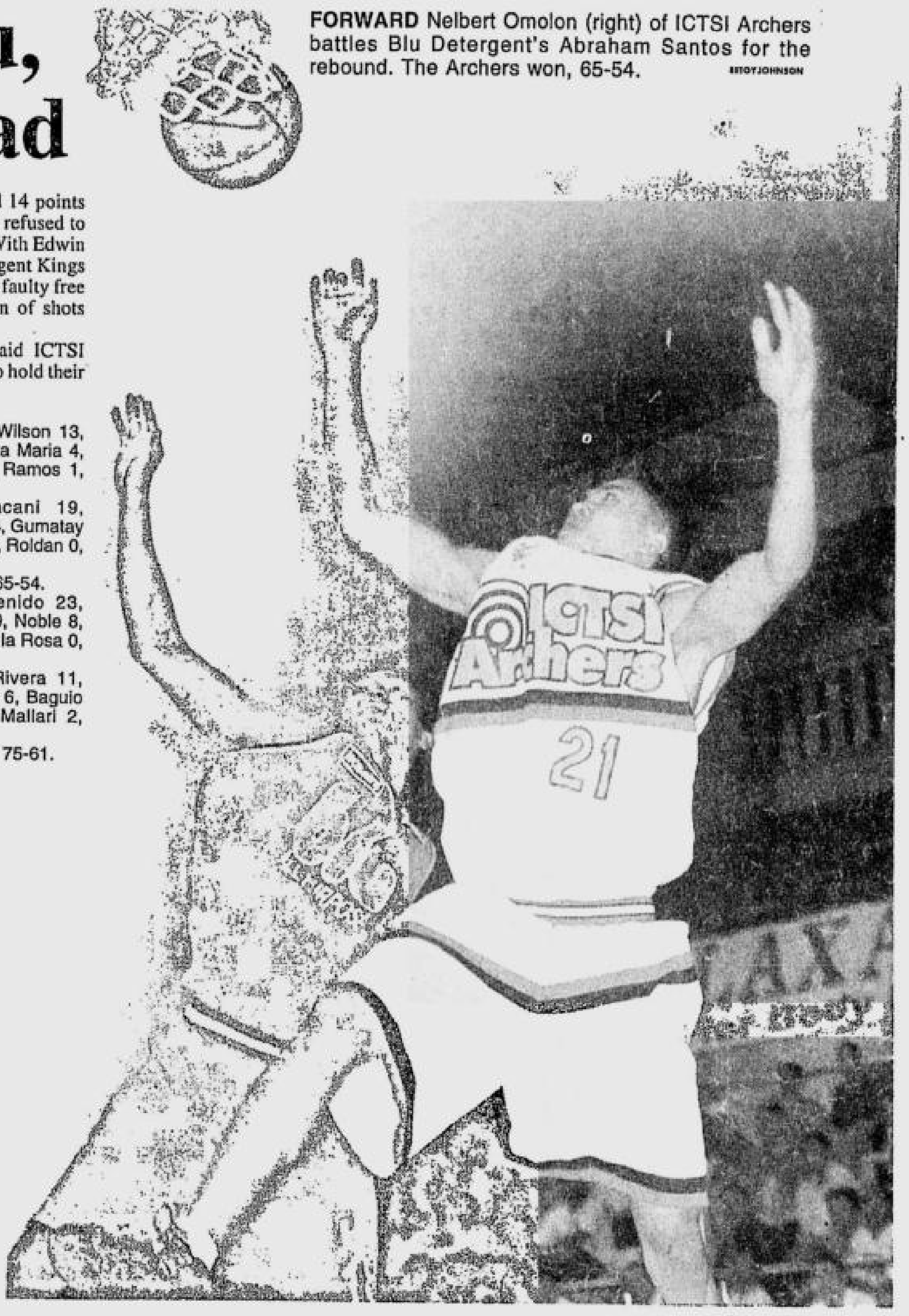
BLU DETERGENT 54—Bacani 19, Billones 11, Legaspi 8, Epondulan 4, Gumatay 4, De la Cuesta 4, Kalaw 2, Sanz 2, Roldan 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 24-8, 37-20, 48-40, 65-54.

ATENEO-PIONEER 75—Avenido 23, Ferrer 13, Villanueva 12, Alvarez 9, Noble 8, Mamaril 8, Bugia 2, Fonacier 0, De la Rosa 0, Cruz 0, Membrere 0, Sison 0.

KUTITAP 61—Mercado 12, Rivera 11, Salangsang 10, Bajar 6, Gonzales 6, Baguio 6, Dy 3, Sison 2, Natividad 2, Mallari 2, Norrdell 1, Gelig 0.

Quarters: 27-14, 38-38, 58-52, 75-61.



FORWARD Nelbert Omolon (right) of ICTSI Archers battles Blu Detergent's Abraham Santos for the rebound. The Archers won, 65-54. ROY JOHNSON

Japan-Taipei tandem pockets doubles crown

HIROKI Kondo of Japan and Wang Yeu-Tzuo of Chinese Taipei whipped Hendri Susilo Pramono and Febi Widhiyanto, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday to pocket the doubles title in the US$15,000 Tru-flex ITF Philippines Men's Futures 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Kondo and Wang, who beat second seeds Dirk Stegman and Coenie Van Wyk of South Africa in the semifinals, shared US$945, while Pramono and Widhiyanto split US$495.

In the singles event, No. 9 Daniel Andersson of Sweden outplayed qualifier Robert Krause, 7-5, 6-3, to reach the finals of this event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.

Andersson, singles champion in the United States and Jamaica Futures will meet qualifier King Dong-Hyun of Korea, who scored a 6-4, 6-2 upset win over No. 5 Dmitri Tomashevich of Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, Dino Ferrari defeated Kaoshik Sridhar of India, 7-6 (2), 6-2 to join six other Filipinos in the second-round qualifying of the second leg. Ferrari will meet Ashkan Shokofi of Iran.

Other locals seeing action today are Chase Tinio against No. 3 Hendri Pramono of Indonesia, Antonio Sagansay against Ka Wong of Great Britain, Jandrick de Castro against Anoosha Shahgholi of Iran, Ronald Paz against No. 7 Vjekoslav Skenderovic of Croatia and Ray Benc against No. Tai Tsuchiya.

Top seed Febi Widyanto plays Briton Ata Khatib, No. 2 Igor Levine of Russia faces Marc Paulik of New Zealand, No. 4 Cheng Wei-Jen meets Akbar Taheri of Iran, No. 5 Roman Kukal of Slovak Republic battles Atsufumi Yoshikawa of Japan and No. 6 Simon Shen of Chinese Taipei tangles with Fil-American Reyniere Roxas.

UAAP tourney gets going

THE UNIVERSITY Athletic Association of the Philippines tennis tournament kicked off Friday with De La Salle posting double victories at the Valle Verde Country Club outdoors courts.

The Green Netters, mentored by Roland Kraut and Taddy Cruz, defeated UST, 2-1, in the men's division and later scored a 2-1 victory over Ateneo in the distaff side.

French Cuppers move up, 2-1

MELBOURNE, Australia —Cedric Pioline and Fabrice Santoro upset late inclusions Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-1 Saturday to give France a 2-1 lead over Australia in the Davis Cup tennis final.

A move by Australian captain John Fitzgerald an hour before the match to replace doubles veteran Todd Woodbridge, winner of 12 Grand Slam doubles titles and 70 in his career, and his scheduled partner Wayne Arthurs, backfired.

Hewitt, who lost his opening singles match in five sets Friday, and Rafter, who won in singles but is fighting tendinitis in his right arm, must now return for the reverse singles on Sunday having played three days in a row.

Nicolas Escude, who beat Hewitt on Friday, and Grosjean, who lost to Rafter, are scheduled to play Rafter and Hewitt respectively in the reverse singles on Sunday and will have had a day's rest.

The odds don't favor Australia coming back to win the final, although they have history on their side. The country that has won the doubles match in a Davis Cup final has won the title in every year since 1972 with one exception—Australia lost the doubles in 1977 but came back to beat Italy.

Batangas seeks NC title today

By ROY LUARCA

GAMES TODAY:
Cebu City Coliseum
3 p.m.—Negros vs Cebuana Lhuillier
San Juan Gym
5:30 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Andok's San Juan

ADDUCUL

THE LBC Batangas Blades have gone this far. They don't want to miss a golden opportunity to finally bag their first conference title and land in the MBA national finals.

Holding a 2-0 edge over the Andok's San Juan Knights, the Blades will cut short the best-of-five Northern Conference title series with another road victory at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to end the series on Sunday. The Knights are always dangerous because their confidence level is high," said Blades coach Nash Racela after their 90-66 rout of the Knights in Game Two of the Second Phase Northern Conference playoffs on Friday.

The Blades also bested the Knights, 85-76, in Game One at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum to preserve their homecourt edge under the 1-2-2 series format.

Tonyboy Espinosa and Jeffrey Sanders turned out to be the surprise package for the Blades in Game Two, making up for the scoring slack of Romel Adducul and Alex Compton.

Negros tries to return the favor to Cebuana Lhuillier when it invades the Cebu City Coliseum at 3 p.m. today in Game Three of their similar series for the Southern Conference title.

Though the Slashers handily beat the Gems, 103-88, in Game Two Friday night, they are still reeling from a stunning 88-86 defeat they suffered in Game One.

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network Channel 4 on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Kobe B fills gap for Lakers

SEATTLE, Washington— Shaquille O'Neal was ejected early, but Kobe Bryant took over with 30 points, including eight in a key third-quarter that propelled the Lakers to a 107-92 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics on Friday.

Los Angeles did not beat Seattle during the 2000-01 campaign — in which they grabbed their second straight National Basketball Association title. They had dropped four straight to the Sonics but grabbed a 14-point lead late in the third quarter and never let the advantage dip below double digits over the final 12 minutes.

Off to the best start in franchise history, the Lakers (14-1) cruised past Seattle — which had won three straight home games — despite playing most of the contest without O'Neal, who received his second technical late in the first quarter.

Wizards 84, Heat 75

Meanwhile, Michael Jordan scored eight of his 22 points in the fourth quarter and Richard Hamilton added 19 as the Washington Wizards rallied for an 84-75 victory over the abysmal Heat, who have lost 11 in a row for the first time in more than a decade. *AFP*

Complete results

Detroit 110, Charlotte 105; Washington 84, Miami 75; Memphis 102, Houston 85; Sacramento 109, San Antonio 106, OT; Phoenix 98, Utah 76; Denver 96, L.A. Clippers 93; L.A. Lakers 107, Seattle 92; Portland 101, Milwaukee 95. ***AP***

Miñoza slips to 12th

TOKYO—Filipino Frankie Miñoza could only shoot a two-over-par 72 yesterday and slipped to a share of 12th after the third round of the $732,000 JGTO Nippon Series JT Cup golf tournament at the par-70 Tokyo Yomiuri Country Club course.

Miñoza, down to 17th in the Order of Merit going into this season-ending event that features the top 30 players of the Japanese Tour, fell nine shots behind solo leader Keiichiro Fukabori who shot a 67 for 198.

MJ needs support

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THEY'VE got Michael Jordan—instead of Harry Potter—and they're called the Wizards. But wizards has the Washington team disappointingly not played like on the floor through the first month of competitions and in all likelihood, the club won't transform into one for the remainder of the season.

So disorganized are the Washington Wizards and lacking in chemistry and direction that there appears not much light on the other tunnel even with His Airness posting big numbers.

Jordan is no savior and at 38, he can't do the job alone. He needs his teammates to step up on a consistent basis. Instead, they've acted more like bystanders, looking not to take charge or upstage Jordan out of respect (or is it fear?) for the basketball operations.

Even the coach, Doug Collins, appears to be in awe of Michael, the man who last summer hired him to become the Wizards' top bench strategist. The sword of Damocles hangs on his head and his strategies probably are designed to keep Jordan happy, something that the latter may not exactly relish.

Michael knows the young Wizards can only be a winning or playoff-contending team if his supporting cast performs well and is willing to defend or rebound, a pair of elements that have been missing in the Wizards' lackluster appearances thus far.

Collins does not have a clear-cut game plan. He's coaching two distinctly different teams. There's the halfcourt unit of Jordan and Christian Laettner and Chris Whitney and Popeye Jones, the one that Collins apparently favors. Then there's the fastbreak-oriented young group of Courtney Alexander and Tyronn Lue and rookie Kwame Brown and Etan Thomas, which does not really know what Collins wants them to do.

And there's Richard Hamilton, the in-between guy who sometimes does not know which way to go.

Admittedly, Jordan still has most of his skills intact although he no longer dunks or goes high for a rebound as much as he once did night in and night out during his prime years with the Chicago Bulls.

The three-year lack of activity (he was retired for three years, remember?)—more than his age—is taking its toll on the five-time NBA MVP's shooting touch. But give him some more time—perhaps by the All-Star break in mid-February—and his field-gold shooting percentage should improve.

A starter at small forward, Jordan currently is averaging 25.7 points, 6.4 rebounds, 4.9 assists, 2.07 steals and 38.0 minutes in 14 games but he's only cashing in on .402 of his tries from the field, an NBA career low. He's hoisting 25.2 field attempts per game, the league high so far this campaign.

Other than Jordan, only two own twin-digit scoring figures. They are Hamilton, who's hitting at a 17.4-point clip (on .403 field accuracy), and guard Hubert Davis, who has an 11.0-ppg average in six games.

Constantino paces tenpin tilt

DEFENDING champion Angelo Constantino showed the way in Day 1 of the 2nd Pepsi-GameworX Tenpin Bowling Classic Tournament yesterday at GameworX StriXe, fourth level of Festival Supermall, Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Constantino, a member of the National Bowling Team representing Plydium, had 1,732 pinfalls to lead the cast of 144 bowlers, while Carlo Mansilungan and Biboy Rivera took second and third spots with 1,717 and 1,716 pinfalls, respectively.

Benny Dytoc, also a member of the National team representing Plydium, was fourth with 1,695 pinfalls and Christian Navarro with 1,668 claimed fifth place.

At sixth to 10th spot are Willy Natividad of MTBA 1,646; Lippy Uy of AMBA 1,638; Kris Valenzona of AMBA 1,630; Roger Balanay of AMBA 1,622 while Al Dy and Jonnee Gatchalian tied at 10th with 1,617 pinfalls.

Other favorites were a bit shaky in the opening round of the five days tournament, a joined effort of GameworX Inc. and Pepsi Inc. in coordination with Alliance of Muntinlupa Bowlers Association (AMBA).

PMI dribblers edge Rizal foes

PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute bucked a final-minute collapse as Sheryl Nabus scored all of the team's last 10 points for a close 48-47 victory over Rizal Technological University yesterday in the National Capital Region Athletic Association basketball tournament at the PMI gym.

Nabus, who was scoreless in the first half, delivered for PMI when needed most and finished with a team-high 14 points.

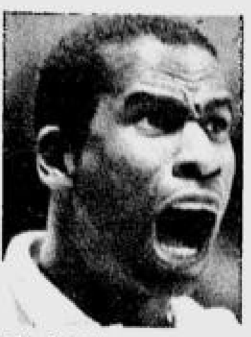
With the victory, PMI (2-0) surged on top of the women's Group A basketball competitions in this tournament supported by Pagcor, Pepsi-Cola, Splash, Mikasa and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

RTU's Maritess Arahan, who tied the game at 45-all, missed a three-pointer at midcourt for the final score. Her teammate, Karen Blancaflor, made a jumper to cut the deficit to 47-48 with 10 seconds left following three charities by Nabus.

RTU (1-1) dropped to a tie for second place with defending champion De La Salle-Manila, which won over New Era University with an 87-21 rout.

Aimee Manosca and Princess Mariano tallied 14 and 13, respectively for the Lady Green Archers. Their sister school, DLSU-Dasma (2-0), pummeled AMACC (1-1), 76-58. EAC (1-1) whipped University of Asia and the Pacific, 61-55.

Sta. Lucia-Pop knockout tiff tonight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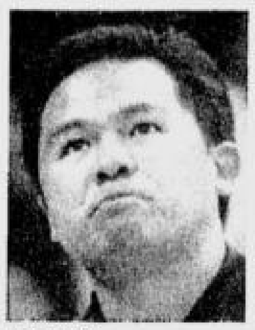
REYES

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
6p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Pop Cola
Game 1—Pop Cola d. Sta. Lucia, 76-75
Game 2—Sta. Lucia d. Pop Cola, 76-69
Game 3—Pop Cola d. Sta. Lucia, 86-76
Game 4—Sta. Lucia d. Pop Cola, 97-80

By June Navarro

STA. Lucia Realty and Pop Cola face each other in a do-or-die game tonight to decide which team battles defending champion San Miguel Beer in the Finals of the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Chances are almost equal for the Realtors and Panthers as both squads split their last four semifinal meetings to forge the 6 p.m. decider.

The Realtors routed the Panthers, 97-80, during their Antipolo City face-off last Friday to forge tonight's Game 5.

"The players realized that if they play with a lot of energy, it would be Sta. Lucia," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black. "If they don't, then it's gonna be Pop Cola."

Damien Owens, Paolo Mendoza, Cris Tan and Marlou Aquino played with intensity, shackling the Panthers' offensive options while making the crucial shots down the stretch.

"I hope we could revive that kind of energy tomorrow," said Black, whose Realtors averted what could have been an early Christmas break after the Panthers gained a 2-1 advantage in their best-of-five semis series.

The Panthers overwhelmed the towering Realtors in Game 3, 86-76, to shatter a one-game standoff and achieve psychological advantage.

Ace playmaker Johnny Abarrientos suited up in Game 4 but didn't see action. This time, Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes will have to field in the 1996 MVP to restore order in the backcourt.

"We applied key defensive stops but we weren't that aggressive at the offensive end," said Reyes. "I guess I will have to use Johnny (Abarrientos) for added offensive teeth."

Should the Panthers win, they will advance to the Finals for the first time in 6 years since winning the 1995 Commissioners Cup under the aegis of coach Derick Pumaren.

Against San Miguel Beer, it would be their second championship meeting after the Beermen prevailed in the Finals of the Governors Cup in 1993.

Sta. Lucia Tour ends at E. Ridge

THE STA. Lucia Golf Tour winds up this week with no less than 150 campaigners taking a shot at overall honors one last time and a million-peso property at the sprawling Eagle Ridge complex in Gen. Trias, Cavite set to be raffled off.

It will be Eagle Ridge which will host the fourth final leg of a nationwide tour that had made stops at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Cebu, the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite and the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Club in Davao City.

Participants will have their official rounds on Thursday, Dec. 6 before the official competition days on Dec. 7 and 8 at the Faldo and Aoki courses of the country's biggest golf complex.

Co-sponsors of the event are Golforce Inc., Gainers marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind., Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Isuzu, Canscor Construction and Development Inc., Neltex and Anako. Official hotels are Hyatt, Cebu Plaza and Marco Polo-Davao.

Philippine Airlines is flying the entries from Cebu and Davao to venues outside their vicinity.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, the chair and vice chair of the executive committee handling the event, said that there has been a tremendous improvement in scoring compared to the previous year and this has made the competitions in each division very tight.

"Except for the first division, different winners had emerged in the lower divisions both in the team and individual events so this shows how intense the competition has become," said Santos.

Gob, for his part, said that they can only look forward to a bigger Tour next year.

Pres. Cup set Dec. 4

EVERYTHING is set for the President's Cup Golf Classic of the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the picturesque Tagaytay Midlands course. Tee-off starts as early as 6 a.m. all the way to 11 a.m.

Two Mercedes Benz cars are at stake for a hole-in-one feat for each nine in the 18-hole tourney which has attracted at least 200 member Rotarians and guests.

Peter Chen, chairman of the tournament committee, expressed his thanks to the many sponsors who are backing the tourney. They are Futura Window Decors, Capitol Stationery, Freego, Staff Line, Copacabana, Power Trade, MGME-Pioneer Electronic, I-Com Cars.com, cars an rental, Water Tradition, Primal Enterprises, Virgen Shipping, Willy Toilet Partition, Columbia Fruit Traders, AJ&J Cargo, Steel Center Phils., Osram Phils., Cock Orion Water Pipe System, Benzell Enterprises, Wallem Shipping, DGE Rosie Go, DGN Alex Huang and The Pearl Manila Hotel.

Organizers said that participants will be required to share a golf cart for an additional charge of P250 to speed up play. From the usual rate of the club for carts of P770, the host Rotary club will shoulder P270.

Anand, Adams advance

MOSCOW — Defending Fide world champion Viswanathan Anand of India on Friday advanced to the third round of the Fide world championship with a draw against Denmarks Peter Heine Nielsen in the second game of the second round.

Anand, playing white, achieved an advantage in space and a better pawn structure in a double-rook-and-pawn ending. But rather than try to squeeze a win out of the position, he accepted a draw.

Anand will play Frances Vladislav Tkachiev in round three, which begins Saturday.

Second seed Michael Adams of England and third seed Alexander Morozevich both advanced to the next round.

Meawnhile, in an attempt to outdo their bitter rivals, the world's top two chess players, former world champion Garry Kasparov and Braingames world champion Vladimir Kramnik, will be playing an exhibition match just a few blocks away from the Fide world championship—at the Hallof Unions. *AP*

'*Kunats* be located' are not welcome

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

CAN Golden Ballet make it six in a row?

We'll find that out today when Jun Almeda's outstanding filly competes in the Juvenile Championship at Santa Ana.

Tipsters put the "pamprimera" mark on Golden Ballet but Jun said the going may be tougher this time.

"*Milya ang karera baka maraming bumuliglig. At saka magagaling din yung mga kalaban*," he reasoned out.

The biggest threat? Jun said it's going to be Mighty Strong, Albert Yam's well-rested Juvenile Colt champion.

But longshot players think otherwise. In case the top picks flop, they said either Sandy Javier's River Bee, the Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Colt titlist, or Jun Paman's Bidang Bida could snatch the P600,000 first prize.

If you have time, don't fail to watch this afternoon's main race!

***

Myther and Friends does not only come alive on Mondays and Thursdays.

In fact, it is at its best on Fridays because of, you guessed it right, the Friday Club.

Among those you'll find there on that day are Jun and Nano Almeda, Jimmy Dilag, Sonny Arevalo, Roger Tandiama, Vey Cruz, Nick Atienza and Joey Nolasco, who calls the place "swerte."

But Myther "The Adriatico Kid" Buñag says those "*kunats* be located" like some horseowners and racing officials we know are not welcome to the club.

Right, Boss Howie Basilio?

***

Thousands of *kareristas* who poured their bets on Going Free last Wednesday night still couldn't fathom how Val Dilema got unseated atop the outstanding favorite.

"*Wala kaming kalaban laban. Para kaming nadukutan nang ganun na lang*," complained Enrico S. Bañez of Pasong Tamo, Makati.

Bañez's was only one of several disgruntled bettors who approached and requested us to give way to their gripes regarding the Going Free incident.

Val Dilema should have made to explain what really happened and the Philippine Racing Club stewards should have announced the matter thereafter.

Kawawa naman ang bayang kareristas!

Ernie still ahead

SUN CITY, South Africa—Ernie Els of South Africa shot a six-under-par 66 for a halfway total of 133 to maintain his one-stroke lead in the Nedbank Golf Challenge at the Gary Player Country Club course Friday.

The 32-year-old world number four, who is attempting to become the first player in the 21-year history of the event to complete three straight wins, capitalized on four straight birdies from the ninth hole to lead the chase for the two-million-dollar first prize. *AFP*

Judah banned

RENO, Nevada—Former junior welterweight champion Zab Judah was fined $75,000 and suspended six months by the Nevada State Athletic Commission for throwing a stool and putting a glove to a referee's chin after losing a match last month.

"It's fair," Judah said Friday after pleading his case before the commission, which approved the sanctions 5-0. *AP*

It's Lucas

MONTREAL— Canadian Eric Lucas stopped South African Dingaan Thobela in the eighth round here Friday to retain his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title.

The 30-year-old from Quebec province, dominated the fight from the beginning, and led comfortably on the judges' cards through the seven completed rounds. *AFP*

'Ballet' picked

UNBEATEN Golden Ballet faces her biggest test today when she runs in the Philracom Juvenile Championship race at the Santa Ana Park.

The treasure Cay-Likeable Style filly is gunning for her sixth straight win and will be racing for the first time against the boys in what promises to be a preview of next year's Triple Crown Championship Series.

Already the winner of four top money races, including back-to-back victories in the Mitra Cup and the Marho Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Championships, Golden Ballet will be challenged by a crack group of two-year-olds led by Sandy Javier's River Bee and Magical Mark.

Also given a strong chance in the one-mile race is Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts champion Mighty Strong, winner of three consecutive races including two juvenile stakes events.

Rounding out the field are Art of Rose, Bidang Bida, Baccarat, Perfect Storm, What A Spell, The Dominator and Al Baraq.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Pistol Red 2. Ohayo Gozaimas 3. Sweet Topic 4. Beauty and Grace

Race 2—1. Free Entrance 2. Tigra 3. Rumaragasa 4. Mark's Treasure

Race 3—1. Danielle's Angel 2. Golden Prince 3. Strong Bird 4. Baptism of Fire 5. Denon

Race 4—1. Vice on Ice 2. Snake Dancer 3. Arabica

Race 5—1. La Signorina 2. Dear Elane 3. Dennis D Menace 4. Day and Night

Race 6—1. Counter Strike 2. Mica's Magic 3. Rosewood 4. Spinning Bullet 5. Men of Honor

Race 7—1. Flying Fortress 2. Triple Joy 3. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko

Race 8—1. Mighty Strong 2. Golden Ballet 3. Bidang Bida 4. River Bee 5. Baccarat

Race 9—1. Carlo's Charm 2. Rain Check 3. Gossip Column 4. Pinagpala

Race 10—1. Ocean Dignity 2. Boomerang 3. Top Secret 4. Turkish Delight 5. Hearts on Fire

Race 11—1. Notable 2. Howard Huge 3. Sweep Away 4. Ang Seaman 5. Hotrod

Race 12—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Stock Rising 4. Green Leaves

Race 13—1. Fair Ringer/Dynamite Jack 2. Lucky El 3. Michael's Way 4. Guts Pleaser 5. Snake King 6. Turbo Carera

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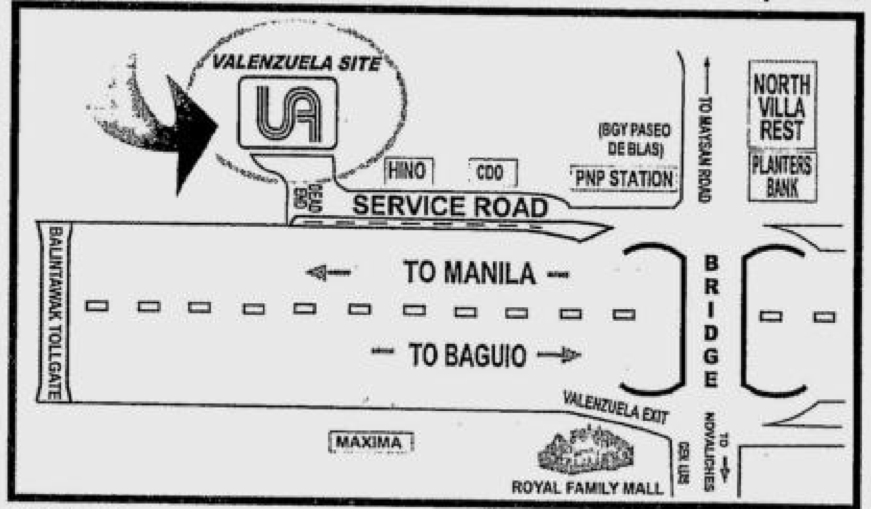

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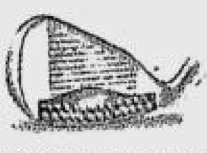
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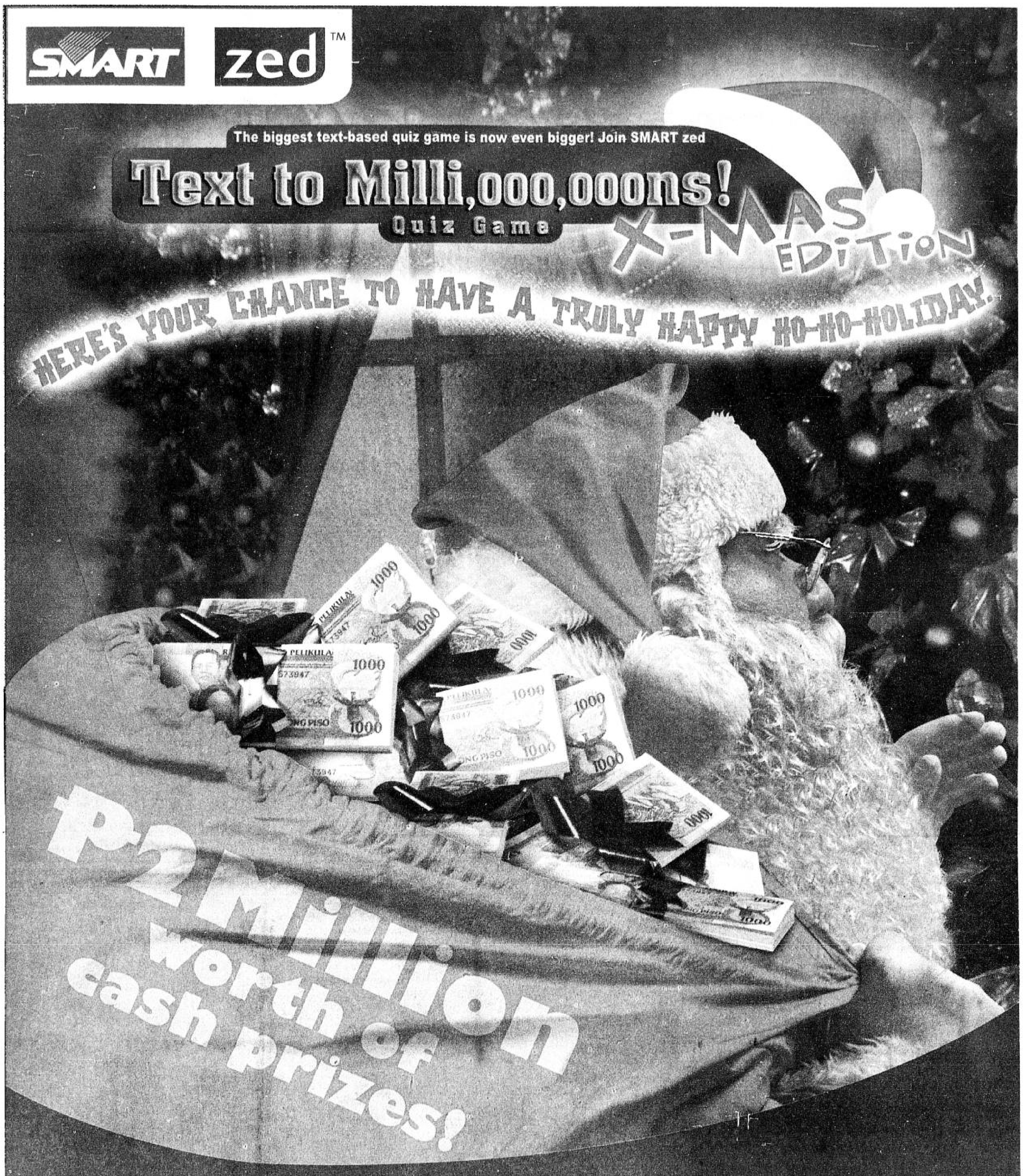

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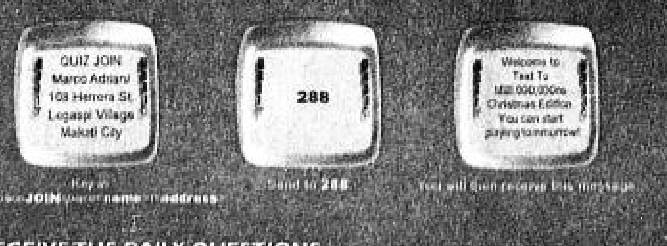

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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TREE MAKER TOOTS SOBERANO

Many of these made-in-Baguio Christmas trees, created from painted pine cones and branches, find their way to many other places, including Metro Manila, for the holidays.

Carlson buried, Fariñas weeps

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Hundreds of Ilocanos showed up yesterday afternoon when former beauty queen and actress Maria Teresa Carlson was laid to rest in her husband's family-owned mausoleum at the Floral Garden here.

Carlson's husband, former Ilocos Norte governor Rodolfo Fariñas, their children and immediate relatives escorted her remains from the St. William's Cathedral to the cemetery more than a kilometer away.

At the Fariñas residence earlier, the family opened Carlson's coffin for a final viewing. Fariñas, also a former congressman, broke into tears.

Carlson's mother and two sisters arrived here Friday night but they did not go to the wake. They proceeded immediately to the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel and spent the night there and refused to grant press interviews.

Carlson's mother wailed when she saw her daughter's coffin being taken to the cathedral. She went near the coffin and clung on to it.

Carlson's coffin was placed on board an open hearse.

In accordance with local tradition, Carlson's coffin was turned around thrice before it was loaded into the van.

Old people here said turning the dead around was necessary so that the soul of the dead would not return among the living.

"This is widely practiced here," said barangay councilman Danny de la Cruz. "Our elders believe that the dead person's soul will not find its way back to their house when the coffin is turned around thrice."

De la Cruz said the immediate family members must wash their faces with lukewarm water and *basi*, a native wine, after the body is buried.

Carlson's eldest daughter Ria drove the family van carrying Carlson's body to the church for the final rites.

Archbishop Edmundo Abaya, also the couple's spiritual adviser, said Mass for Carlson.

During the Mass, Fariñas, who was earlier seated beside his children, transferred to where Carlson's relatives were seated and hugged his mother-in-law.

Friends and relatives rushed near the casket when it was opened for the final blessing.

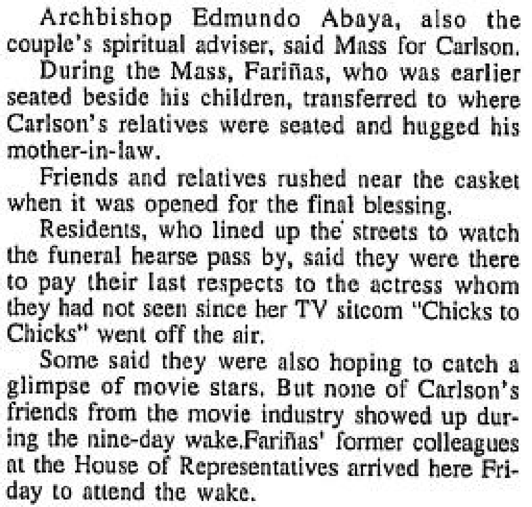
Residents, who lined up the streets to watch the funeral hearse pass by, said they were there to pay their last respects to the actress whom they had not seen since her TV sitcom "Chicks to Chicks" went off the air.

Some said they were also hoping to catch a glimpse of movie stars. But none of Carlson's friends from the movie industry showed up during the nine-day wake.Fariñas' former colleagues at the House of Representatives arrived here Friday to attend the wake.

Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said they came to console Fariñas whom they considered one of the brightest minds in Congress.

"We are here, even if it's a holiday, to console Fariñas and his family," Roxas told reporters on Friday, National Heroes Day.

CARLSON BURIED/ A26



RELATIVES pay their final respects.

Vandolph opens eyes at last

Parents Dolphy and Alma Moreno moved to tears

By Leah Salterio

"VANDOLPH, press my hand.

"Look at me."

Alma Moreno was in tears Friday afternoon when her 17-year-old son, Vandolph Quizon, opened his eyes for the first time since he was seriously injured in a car crash on Nov. 19.

Moreno was at Vandolph's bedside in the Intensive Care Unit of the Makati Medical Center, where the young actor has been confined for nearly two weeks since the road accident in Pangasinan province.

Moreno herself was confined in the same hospital to ease the pains caused by her multiple sclerosis. But she said she rushed to the ICU when she heard that her son had opened his eyes at last. An intravenous tube was still attached to her arm even as she went to the ICU from her private room on the fourth floor.

Moreno was accompanied by one of her female aides who carried the dextrose bottle.

"He (Vandolph) didn't recognize me," Moreno recalled, "but when I talked to him, he responded.

"The doctors told us that even if he opened his eyes, he might not be able to recognize anyone right away. But he heard me. That was a good sign."

She said Vandolph's father, ace comedian Dolphy, was also at the young actor's bedside earlier last Friday.

"Dolphy also cried when he saw Vandolph open his eyes," Moreno said.

Vandolph's girlfriend and classmate at the Colegio San Agustin in Makati, Desiree Raquiza, is also in the Makati Medical ICU. She has not regained consciousness since the accident.

The stress, tension and anxiety brought by staying in the hospital and watching over Vandolph took its toll on Moreno. Her physician, Dr. Pia Banico, advised her to relax and undergo medication in the hospital.

"Two days ago, I felt this pain in my head and my legs which really made me weak," Moreno said. "I also have colds and I was coughing, so my doctor started giving me medicine and advised me to get some sleep."

She was also advised to eat regularly and forget about her diet.

"Since Vandolph was hospitalized, I've been always thinking and I couldn't get enough sleep," she said. "My resistance level dropped, so my doctor is now also looking after me."

Her husband, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, had rented a private helicopter to fetch Vandolph, who is his stepson, and the young man's girlfriend from Pangasinan.

Marquez said he learned two things while he was on board the rented helicopter: The Armed Forces of the Philippines has no helicopter capable of night flying, and the poor will die waiting for a means to transport them to a better-equipped hospital fast in case of extreme emergency.

Marquez said he mobilized all his contacts to get a helicopter starting at 5 p.m. on Nov. 19.

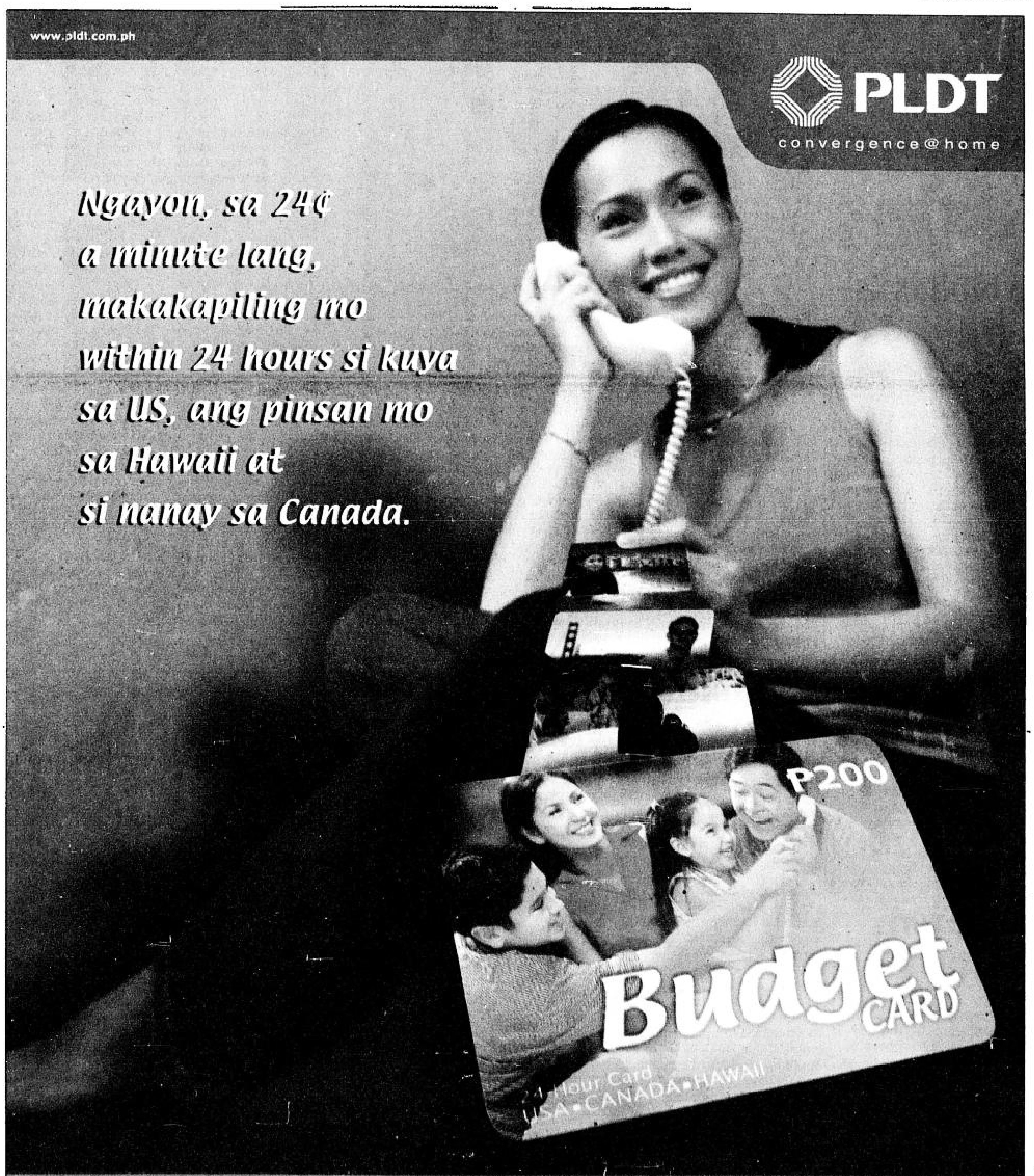
"The groups we contacted, including the AFP, could give us a chopper but only the next morning," he said. "The reason given was that they had neither the helicopter nor the pilot capable of flying at night."

Finally, Parañaque city administrator Lito Abad found a commercial helicopter owned by the Enriles, which could fly in darkness. But the pilot had no license to fly at night. It was learned that he was only about to take night-flying lessons in the US.

The Air Transportation Office gave the permit to fly. "For that alone," said Marquez, "we were very thankful. We're also indebted to the company that owns the plane. They asked no questions nor demanded a downpayment."

Dolphy, his partner Zsa Zsa Padilla and Marquez boarded the helicopter to go to Pangasinan. Airborne, the two discoveries nagged Marquez.

VANDOLPH/ A26



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Cops warned: 4 crimes and you're out

By Alcuin Papa

FOUR strikes and you're out.

Metro Manila's police chief yesterday said he would sack any district director or station commander who failed to stem abductions in his area of responsibility.

Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said three successive kidnapping cases this month would earn for the district director a warning. A fourth kidnapping case would cost the police official his job, Aglipay said.

"I have ordered the district directors and the station commanders to exert all efforts to prevent the occurrence of heinous crimes," Aglipay said. "If they fail, they will be relived of their posts."

The NCRPO chief also ordered the five district directors and their station commanders to beef up security in their areas to deter bank robbers. Failure to do so would also mean the ax, he added.

Aglipay said that with the approaching holidays, he is expecting the crime rate in Metro Manila to climb. He said he also received orders from the Philippine National Police chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, to find ways to cut the crime rate this Christmas.

He explained that if the area covered by a district director or station commander is hit with two bank robberies and two kidnappings this December, the official automatically would be sacked.

Aglipay added that due process would be observed before an erring police official is sacked.

"We have to find out if all possible measures were taken to prevent the crimes," he said. "If not, then the top officers liable will be definitely relieved. The focus here is prevention of crimes and winning back the streets from the criminals."

The NCRPO chief said he is himself willing to be relieved of his post if his superiors could prove he has been unable to curb the crime rate in the metropolis.

"We want all areas to be covered," he said. "This time we want to go on the offensive and I have instructed the district directors to form teams to go after kidnappers, bank robbers, drug pushers and other criminals."

He said he intends to extend this period past December.

Aglipay also said he has ordered the district directors to send out more foot patrol policemen and to wrap up investigations of heinous crimes as soon as possible.

About 1,500 policemen have been deployed in major commercial areas like malls.

Wall kills 2 workers in Valenzuela

TWO construction workers died yesterday morning when a wall of the building they were working on in Valenzuela City collapsed.

The workers were identified as Ricardo Oser, 26, and Vicente Militante, 40.

According to Insp. Salvador de la Cruz, chief of the Valenzuela City police Station Investigation branch, a concrete retaining wall under construction at the compound of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints along Maysan Road collapsed for still unknown reasons.

The two workers were removing the scaffolding of the wall when the wall collapsed, pinning them, witnesses said.

Valenzuela City policemen, firemen and the city's rescue team tried to rescue the workers from under the wall. The two men's bodies were pulled out after one hour.

They were brought to the Valenzuela City General Hospital where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

Dela Cruz identified the building contractor as the People's Asia Pacific Construction Corp.

Alcuin Papa

Exhibitionist cop jailed

AN EXHIBITIONIST policeman landed in jail Friday night for exposing his private parts to a housewife and for illegal possession of a firearm in Makati City.

Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati City police Criminal Investigation Division, identified the suspect as PO1 Lauro Tarusan, 29, a member of the Special Action Force who was assigned to the Central Police District in Quezon City.

According to the complaint filed by the 38-year-old housewife, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, with the Makati City police, she was standing on Banahaw Street in Barangay Comembo, Makati City around 7:30 p.m. when she felt something touch her from behind.

She turned around and was shocked to see the drunken Tarusan holding on to his private part. The woman said she screamed, attracting the attention of policemen on board a roving police car.

Recovered from Tarusan was a gun of still unknown caliber which turned out to be unlicensed. He is now detained at the Makati City police detention center and is facing charges of acts of lasciviousness and illegal possession of firearms before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office. *Alcuin Papa*

2 injured in attack

TWO MEN on a motorcycle attacked a barangay hall in Binondo, Manila and seriously wounded a barangay officer and a security officer yesterday morning.

Kagawad Rodolfo Ledesma and watchman Edgar Reufremio of Barangay 275, Zone 25 in Binondo are now being treated at the Manila Medical Center, police said.

SPO4 Danilo Hermosura of the Western Police District Station 11 said the suspects went to the barangay hall on CM Recto Avenue and Delpan Street about 9 a.m. Witnesses said one of the suspects, carrying what appeared to be a .38-caliber pistol, alighted from the motorcycle, approached the hall and began shooting at the people inside.

Ledesma was shot in the chest and left leg while Reufremio took two bullets also in the chest.

Investigators have yet to ascertain the gunmen's motive.

Hermosura said it could be related to a case or an arrest involving the barangay officials.

Friday morning, a watchman was injured when members of a street gang stormed a barangay hall in Mandaluyong City to free two other gang members who were arrested for violating the city curfew for minors. *Jerome Aning*

Every day is good news for newspaper grandma

By Marlu V. Balmaceda,
Contributor

TALES OF THE CITY

SHE will turn 82 on Friday, Dec. 7.

On that day, as on any other working day, she will criss-cross Ayala Avenue starting at 3 a.m. With her gnarled hands, she will begin shuffling broadsheets and tabloids, stacking them into a foot-high pile. Then the 4-foot-8-inch woman will rise from her perch in front of the Insular Life Building, way before the rush hour disturbs the early morning calm.

Her slippered feet will bring her to the doors of some of the country's largest and most powerful business institutions. No security guard ever stops her to ask for proper identification, even at places that have the omnipresent "No ID, no entry" signs.

She will simply walk up to the elevators that carry her up to the so-called "executive floors" where she will pull out a paper from the stack under her arm and place it on the boss's "In" tray. She will leave softly and head for the next office building on her newspaper route that dates back to 1958.

Serene

Her name is Ambrosia Gudao. We call her *Aling* Ambrosia, *Aling* Brosya, *Aling* Busyang or *Lola* Bosh. She was born in Quiapo, Manila in 1919. The lines on her face draw a picture of a harsh life but she goes through each day with the serenity of a genteel woman. The memories she shares with those who bother to find out her story can fill the newspapers she carries so tenderly.

Aling Ambrosia seems as ancient as Ayala Avenue itself. She began delivering newspapers to the area even before it was known as the financial center of the Philippines.

She recalls that back then, the few landmarks on the strip west of the Rizal Theater were the Insular Life, Elizalde building and the Nielsen Tower. The SGV building rose in the mid-1960s and soon after, the skyline began to change in a frantic pace. Aling Ambrosia has seen the Makati Central Business District grow before her eyes.

'LOLA' Bosh

And those weary eyes have seen generations of men and women who have run Philippine business. When she says "*napakabait nina* Jaime *at* Fernando," she refers to none other than the Zobel brothers. She is a welcome guest in the office of Don Jaime Zobel, high up in Tower One from which one can see the vastness of Ayala's development.

Like Sycip

When she began delivering newspapers to SGV & Co. decades ago, she was surprised to learn that Washington SyCip was running the show. They had been schoolmates at Mapa High School in the 1930s. She and SyCip share something else in common: They never miss a day of work and are among the first to arrive for work.

After SGV, she trudges over to the old Makati Stock Exchange building, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and on to the Cojuangco Building. She used to have a little trolley with wheels to carry her bundles but someone stole it during the last anti-Erap rally last January. Delivery usually ends when office hours begin.

By mid-morning Aling Ambrosia will have settled down in her Insular Life spot where other newspaper vendors converge. Her ex-husband (they had separated many years back) and only child are among them. Here they wait until it is time to return to the offices in the afternoon to collect payment from their subscribers.

Family's needs

Despite her age, the constant exposure to the traffic smog and the burden she carries each day, Aling Ambrosia appears very fit despite her almost 82 years. She does not need eyeglasses and she is generous with her smiles.

She even relates that on weekends she still does her own laundry. The only trouble is she has to fetch her own water from a communal tap so she has to shell out P600 of her hard-earned savings for a rickety *kariton* that she pushes herself.

If you ask her why she continues to work to this day, she'll say it's because she needs to contribute to the family's needs.

Family is the brood of her only child, a sixtysomething son, his seven children and twice as many grandchildren. The son had a stroke a couple of months ago that ripped her own heart because she didn't know where to get the money for his medication.

When her Makati "family" heard of her plight (she did not have to ask for help; the problem just came up in a casual conversation with an Ayala Corp. officer), her many *suki* started a fund that eventually ran to the thousands.

Stolen sweater

Once in a while she would moan over a sweater (a gift from another client) that was stolen while it was hanging from the clothesline, or her being unable to pay the family's electricity bill for the month. Another time she fell down the stairs of her own house because they still can't afford to put up a banister.

But she says all this only during snatches of conversation if you chance upon her waiting for the elevator. Otherwise she keeps quiet, minding her own business and delivering the news.

Last year, when asked what she wished for her 81st birthday, she said in Pilipino she wanted "to still be alive on that day."

This year, it will most probably be the same wish. And since her birthday will fall on a first Friday, she plans to go to the Quiapo Church. She is grateful for each day that she can earn a living. Retirement is a word that holds no meaning for her.

After Aling Ambrosia ends her rounds around 3 p.m., she will head for home with a grandchild in tow. They will take a non-air-conditioned bus (to save a few extra pesos) for the long and hot ride to Las Piñas where a waterless, unfinished two-story concrete house sits on a 40-square-meter lot.

Her head hits the pillow at about 8 p.m., and she sleeps until 2 a.m., when it is time to start preparing for another working day.

Vandolph ...

(From page A25)

He thought: What if we didn't find a helicopter that could fly at night? What if Vandolph had no families that could afford to rent a helicopter? What if an ordinary person found himself in a similar situation?

"I think I would start pushing for an insurance scheme that would fly poor Parañaque residents to where they could get the best medical treatment in extreme emergency cases," he said.

He said the scheme includes setting up a 24-hour rescue mission in Parañaque City where, at any time of day, there would be someone who could make a decision. Vital to the success of this mission, he said, is the availability of a rented or leased helicopter that could fly at night.

VANDOLPH (fourth row, third from left) in class picture with his classmates at Colegio San Agustin. His girlfriend Desiree is in another class.

Spoiled spaghetti downs 200

PASTOR Ruel Royong, 34, only meant to follow Christ's admonition to feed the poor. But the spaghetti he served in Cainta, Rizal on Friday spoiled his good intentions.

The food, apparently spoiled, sent more than 200 urban poor children and their parents to different hospitals for treatment of symptoms of food poisoning, said Insp. Honesto Argame of the Cainta police.

Argame said Royong held a special program Friday afternoon in a slum in Upper Cuatro, Barangay San Juan, Cainta. The spaghetti was served at 6 p.m. An hour later, the children and their parents complained of nausea and severe diarrhea and were brought to the Amang Rodriguez Hospital, Rayan Hospital, San Juan Leongson and, Angono District Hospital.

The cook identified as Freddie Torres had packed the meal in styropore containers, police said.

As of press time, over 80 percent of the victims were in critical condition.

Alcuin Papa

Carlson buried, Fariñas . . .

(From page A25)

Carlson's casket was placed inside an underground vault beside other newly built vaults reserved for members of the Fariñas family.

The family spent some P300,000 to build the vaults next to the mausoleum where the Fariñas patriarch Federico and his eldest son Federico Jr. were buried.

Carlson had wished to be cremated and her ashes thrown in Subic Bay. Fariñas, however, said he wanted Carlson's remains to be buried so that he and his children could visit her tomb every day.

Architect Rex Hofileña spent six days, often working until midnight, to complete a mini chapel for Carlson's remains.

GMA to open kids' village

TULOY sa Don Bosco Streetchildren Village will be inaugurated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Dec. 3.

The Streetchildren Village, located in Alabang, is designed to accommodate up to 1,000 street children and provide them long-term residential and education programs. It is managed by Tuloy Foundation Inc.

The land on which the village is being constructed was given to Tuloy by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Corporate donors, organizations, and individuals have provided funding for the existing structures in the village, including Consuelo Foundation, Caltex (Philippines) Inc., Caspar Foundation (of Japan), Citibank, Dasmariñas Village Streetchildren Foundation, Lualhati Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Rotary International, and Rotary Streetchildren Foundation.

Escape from cruel employer

By Jerome Aning

FOUR teenage girls yesterday decided they would be better off jumping out the second story window of a house rather than fall in the clutches of their abusive employer before dawn yesterday in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The four survived the fall and suffered only broken bones.

The minors—aged 16 and 17, and natives of Ozamis, Dumaguete and Butuan cities—accused their employer Henry Ching, owner of Hanch Garments on T. Mapua Street, of sexually harassing them during and after working hours.

They claimed they told Ching's wife about the abuses but she merely said she did not care about her husband's actions.

Western Police district Station 3 commander Supt. Danilo Abarsoza said the couple was not in the house when his men went there to invite Ching for questioning.

Investigators learned from three of the complainants that Ching recruited them three months ago to work at his garment factory for P1,500 a month. The fourth girl said she got the job only four days ago.

Three of the girls doubled as maids in the Ching household. They said the suspect would enter their room, pretend to conduct body searches for missing objects and go on to caress their private parts.

The fourth victim told police that about 1:30 p.m. the other day, Ching ordered her to change her clothes in the comfort room. She said he opened the door and pretended to frisk her, threatening to fire her if she refuses.

The girls said they could not go to authorities because the suspect would lock them inside their room on the second floor. They added they have yet to receive their promised salaries.

About 3 a.m. yesterday, the girls decided to escape by breaking the window and jumping to the ground.

When they arrived at the police station to lodge a complaint, the girls were limping and staggering because of injuries to their legs and feet.

They were taken to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center for a complete checkup before they were transferred to the custody of the city's social welfare department.

The Chings are facing charges of violating labor and anti-child abuse laws.

UAE marks 30th year today

THE UNITED Arab Emirates, host to 145,000 Filipinos, marks its 30th founding anniversary today with its Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim Al Jowaid expressing his country's deep friendship with Filipinos.

"The contribution of Filipino workers to the total development of the UAE is incalculable," Al Jowaid said.

He said Filipinos in the UAE are "a highly valued group of expatriates and they occupy a special niche in our hearts."

"I hope Filipinos continue to work with us and help us in making our country a progressive and prosperous one," he said.

Led by President Sheikh Zayed, the UAE is one of the world's fastest developing countries because of its huge reserves of oil and gas.

Al Jowaid said the UAE, regarded as the "voice of moderation in the Mid-East," was deeply shocked and horrified by the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US.

Al Jowaid said the UAE promptly helped the international effort against terrorism. It had spent $3 million for relief aid to Afghanistan and put up three refugee camps now holding a million Afghans. *Juliet L. Javellana*

‘MONSTERS INC.’

The other funny, magical, delightful movie

By Paul Daza

REVIEW

IT TAKES a cultural phenomenon like “Harry Potter” to make a new computer-animated movie from the creators of “Toy Story” look like an under-promoted underdog. While crowds continued to brave long lines to catch “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone ” in its second record-breaking week, Disney/Pixar’s “Monsters Inc.” snuck into theaters last Wednesday virtually unnoticed.

Which is a shame because “Monsters Inc.” is every bit as funny, magical, and delightful as the movie about that boy wizard. And because the story of “Monsters Inc.” was written directly for the screen, it outdoes “Harry Potter” in its ability to surprise. As one who has read all the Potter books, I will always wonder how I would have reacted to the film with no expectations and no subconscious desire to compare the movie with the book.

That tinge of regret, however, didn’t cloud my experience of “Monsters Inc.,” making it all the more pleasurable to watch. I only knew a few minor plot points from the trailer and was thus able to completely surrender myself to the filmmakers when I paid for my ticket.

The gamble paid of handsomely, because “Monsters Inc.” took me on an exhilarating, joyful ride.

Scream collectors

The story of “Monsters Inc.” is simple, yet ingenious. Every night, monsters come out of children’s closets all over the world to scare them and collect their screams. The energy derived from the screams is used as a power source in Monstropolis, the sprawling city where the colorful creatures live. Lately, however, kids have become harder to scare, resulting in a power crisis; less screams means less energy to fuel the city.

Adding to the tense power situation is the unwelcome arrival in Monstropolis of a cute little girl named Boo. With the monsters believing that human beings can kill monsters by simply touching them, the race is on to capture the little girl before she causes too much damage.

Throw in subplots involving corporate greed, accidental parenthood, and courtship (monster-style), and you get a movie that’s as delightful as “Shrek,” though not as irreverent.

Under the leadership of first-time director Pete Doctor (a protégé of “Toy Story” and “A Bug’s Life” director John Lasseter), “Monsters Inc.” is the sweetest and most politically correct movie made by Pixar yet. Whether this was a conscious decision made in light of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US, we’ll only know when the DVD of “Monsters” comes out.

STEVE Buscemi as the voice of Randall Boggs.

Kinder, gentler

But Pixar’s latest gem is clearly a kinder, gentler film than we are used to from the studio that gave us a demented, sadistic kid who mutilated action figures in the first “Toy Story,” and lampooned the “Star Wars” trilogy in “Toy Story 2.”

There were certainly lots of golden opportunities to make fun of mankind’s many cultures in “Monsters Inc.” There are scenes set in Nepal, Hawaii, Tokyo, and Paris, but the filmmakers don’t exploit them. The humor is confined to Monstropolis itself, where the creatures are funny because of their “personalities” more than their physical appearance.

The topnotch voice talents play off each other wonderfully, particularly John Goodman’s paternal Sulley, Billy Crystal’s fame-obsessed Mike, Steve Buscemi’s slippery Randall, and James Coburn’s practical Henry Waternoose.

My vote for best voice, however, goes to Mary Gibbs as the little girl Boo. Her endearing giggles, screams, and baby talk ground the story emotionally, and is the perfect counterpoint to all the putdowns the other characters are bandying about. In fact, the way she says the movie’s last word made my spine tingle.

Amazing

Needless to say, the movie’s visuals do an amazing job of supplementing the vocal acrobatics of the cast. Computer animation has become so sophisticated that it can now simulate organic surfaces and give them a gross and icky look. Just compare the skin textures of the creatures in “Monsters Inc.” with those of the dinosaurs in the “Jurassic Park” movies and you’ll see how much the art has advanced in five years.

Chances are, however, you’ll be drawn to the characters as a whole and not just to their skins. The creatures of “Monsters Inc.” form a terrific ensemble, as unforgettable and as appealing as the cast of “Toy Story” and “A Bug’s Life.”

John Ratzenberger, known to Toy Story fans as the voice of Ham the Piggy Bank, does a surprising turn as a wimpy Abominable Snowman who enjoys serving snow cones more than scaring sherpas in the Himalayas.

If you still have a Harry Potter hangover, there’s also a slippery, lizard-like creature voiced by Buscemi who has the monster equivalent of an Invisibility Cloak. Another favorite is a stoic female slug who looks like Jabba the Hutt who’s at her funniest when she’s not saying anything.

Digital magic

Fans of computer graphics will also have a lot to gawk at. If you’re an animation geek like yours truly, you just might get goosebumps in the scene where Sulley lands facedown in the middle of a snowstorm, and every strand of his aqua-colored fur is blowing realistically in the wind.

Why is this amazing? Because none of what you’re seeing exists; It’s all digital movie magic. There’s no fur and no wind!

The finale features an astonishing trip through hundreds of thousands of doors leading to children’s bedrooms all over the world. It packs a visual wallop reminiscent of the scene in “Toy Story 2” when Woody and his pals entered the enormous cavern in the airport where hundreds of pieces of luggage are sorted.

It’s a perfect metaphor for the movie, because what animated films like “Monsters Inc.” do best is open doors for viewers and take them to wondrous, exotic places they wouldn’t be able to visit any other way.

New war films given green light for exhibition

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

RIGHT after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City, Hollywood producers decided to postpone the scheduled playdates of new movies with terrorist or war elements. They felt that the wounds were too raw for people to want to watch films that reminded them of the real-life trauma that they had just experienced.

But time does have a way of healing wounds, so here it is, only a little less than three months after that day of collective tragedy, some 10 new war movies are being given the green light for exhibition this month, or early next year.

What has changed? Mainly, horror has given way to righteous anger, as many people support the war against global terrorism. They are now willing to be reminded of the terrible violence of armed conflict, if in so doing, Hollywood can make a contribution toward strengthening the free world in its resolve to exterminate the very roots of terrorism.

This reminds some film-industry veterans of the days of World War II, when American filmmakers, flooded movie screens with frankly flag-waving productions that made the US soldier the hero of the moment, and for the years to come.

This time around, things aren’t quite as relentlessly sanguine. Today’s viewers are less simplistic in their mind-set than **Ronald Reagan**’s fans in the mid-1940s. Even the most righteous war has its less resplendent side, and contemporary filmmakers aren’t about to sugar-coat it out of existence.

Still, they’re all too aware that viewers need hope and inspiration these days, and that’s what their new movies are dispensing, as their makers proudly wear their patriotic hearts on their sleeves.

First to hit the screen is “Behind Enemy Lines,” about a US Navy lieutenant shot down while on a mission during the war in Bosnia. **Owen Wilson** plays the lead role, and **Gene Hackman** is cast in another important part.

Next up is “Black Hawk Down,” a movie based on a real war in Mogadishu, Somalia, where elite US soldiers were trapped in the complex conflict. **Josh Hartnett** and **Ewan McGregor** star.

After “The Patriot,” **Mel Gibson** goes back on war footing, shifting focus this time from the Revolutionary war to the conflict in Vietnam. His new film’s focus is the first big battle of the Vietnam war, where 400 American soldiers found themselves staring death in the face.

“Dark Blue World” is about two Czech pilots who join the British Air Force during World War II. As for “No Man’s Land,” it is a Bosnian production about Serb and Bosnian soldiers.

“Charlotte Gray” focuses on women during wartime. **Cate Blanchett** plays a spy who goes behind enemy lines in a special operation with the French Resistance during World War II.

And “Windtalkers,” **John Woo**’s new film, is about Navajo soldiers in the US Army who used their own language to confuse Japanese code-breakers during the Second World War.

These and other new war movies hope that they’ll do as well as “Saving Private Ryan” at the box office ($216M and counting). Thus, some of them follow “Ryan’s” twin thrusts by focusing on US soldiers trapped behind enemy lines, and by personalizing the way they tell their stories, so that viewers can relate to their shell-shocked heroes as people, not as stereotypical supermen.

Will their gambit work? Their producers are banking on viewers’ new resolve to take the war against terrorism seriously. Instructively, however, there are no films on the war in Afghanistan in the pipeline.

It’s simply too close to American’s collective trauma, and the subject is too complex to be explained away by a single production.

Instead, Hollywood focuses on other wars that involve American and courageous soldiers from other countries, hoping that their tales of heroism can be translated into the patriotism and resolve needed to support the free world’s continuing war against terrorism.

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MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50	SERENDIPITY - P 13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 11:40, 2:50, 6:00, 9:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Pops, Martin, sons all together for Christmas

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

FOUR years after she and her equally popular husband **Martin Nievera** separated, **Pops Fernandez** insists it will be the same Christmas this year for her and their sons Robin and Ram.

“Most of you may not know it but Martin, the kids and I manage to get together on Christmas Eve,” Pops offers. “Martin goes to the house to have dinner with us, and then we open gifts with the boys. The only difference is that the kids are so much bigger now so we should give them different gifts.”

She says that this Christmas, she will simply reflect on all the blessings she received the whole year. “It’s been a good and busy year. It’s a time for us to look around and realize how blessed we are. There were a lot of things I learned from the experiences that I went through this year. I guess that’s what’s life is all about.

“We must also not forget that the most important meaning of Christmas is it’s the birth of Jesus.”

Pops says she has become used to being single all over again.

“It was always hard in the beginning,” she says. “But now, even my two kids have adjusted to the fact that their parents are living separately. I’m happier with the way things are going for me right now. I’m okay.”

Pops, who has spent nearly half of her life in show biz, is also thankful that she has gone beyond the intrigues which hounded her early this year.

She was romantically linked with younger actors **Piolo Pascual** and **Diether Ocampo**.

“But the truth is now out that Piolo and I are really just friends,” she says. “Diether is also a good friend because we’re comfortable with each other.”

Normal and simple is how she describes her life these days. “After several days of hard work, I treat myself to a night out with my close friends. The days when I’m free, I spend them with my kids.”

Pops was busy with several commitments here and abroad this year.

FERNANDEZ. A normal and simple life.

“My promise to myself was just to keep working. We all feel that times are hard. I have to take advantage of the offers while the people still want to watch me perform.

“Artists like me should be thankful because despite the crisis, people still want to be entertained.

Pops will end the year with a birthday concert on Dec. 6 at the Music Museum. The show is part of the 105.1 Crossover’s monthly series, “Crossover Presents.”

The concert will present a “movie” of her life, with the repertoire as the soundtrack.

Alco Guerrero directs. **Gerald Salonga** is the musical director.

Joining Pops onstage are session musicians **Roy Mercado** on drums, **Cesar Aguas** on guitar, **Bobby Taylo** on bass, **Mel Villena** on sax and **Bond Samson** on keyboards.

Guesting on the show is The Opera Quartet of Manolo, Zebedee, Sushi and Cecile.

Pops is also set to start 2002 with a concert series, “Weekends with Pops,” at Onstage in Greenhills, with **Floy Quintos** as writer and director.

The series is the first concert production venture of Arian Works Management Corporation, headed by **Noli Eala.**

“It will also be nice to start the year with a show,” Pops says.

Reinvented sound and image

MANY people do not even remember his name or that it has anything to do with the ever-morphing music scene. Maybe his trademark *putong* (Muslim cloth headwear) and the sound of his alternative tunes will remind them who Lito Camo is.

In 1998 at the tail end of the alternative era, Lito released his debut album from BMG Records (Pilipinas), which earned for him a gold record citation and the Awit Award for best new artist of 1998.

But he failed to make music fans appreciate his folk-pop gems like “Kung Ikaw,” “Hey Babe” and “Window Shopping.” He became too fast an act as R&B bands started to surface and steal the limelight from alternative groups. Very few radio stations played his music and the gigs became scarce. “That was frustrating,” Lito says now. “I knew I had a good album but the listeners didn’t like it. It was nobody’s

POPS/ A30

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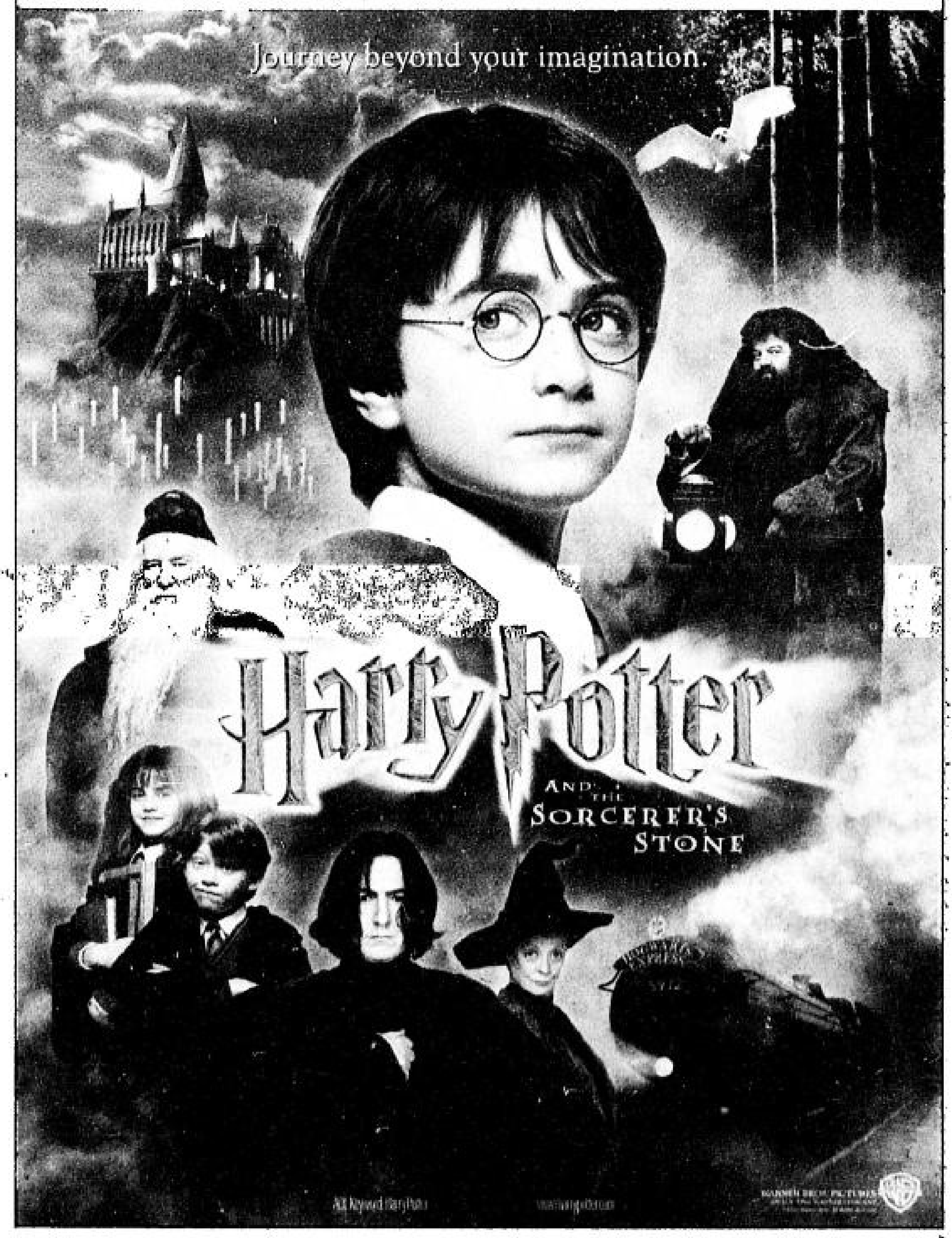

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It's Aiza's season again

By Remy M. Umerez

AIZA Seguerra's voice is constantly in the air again this season.

Aiza, with her recording of the all-time favorite "Pasko Na Sinta Ko" for Vicor, joins the company of recording artists Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez, Imelda Papin and David Pomeranz who at one time or another breathed life to the holiday song.

Aiza's new Christmas CD features only four cuts and is titled "Christmas Sing with Aiza." Her personal favorite carol, "O Holy Night," is one of the four cuts.

The others are "Miss Kita Kung Christmas" and a medley of "Give Love on Christmas Day," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Christmas Song."

Aiza describes Christmas in the Seguerra household. "As early as October we start setting up the Christmas tree. We want it tall and luscious and filled with lots of trimmings. We don't have any theme in decorating the tree. Year after year we hang the same old decors and add new ones. Under the tree, we have little gifts which cost not more than a hundred pesos, for exchanging gifts after the *noche buena*."

What gift, other than money, does Aiza give her parents?

"I don't know yet what to give them this Christmas. I don't give gifts because it is a tradition. Whenever I feel like giving, I do it even when there is no occasion to celebrate. It is not difficult to buy gifts for my parents. Anything that will be useful in the house makes them happy."

According to her mother, Aiza has about 30 godchildren and she started being a godmother when she was only six years old.

"They approach me and I find it hard to refuse," says the mother. "Besides, turning them away is supposed to bring bad luck. Some of Aiza's godchildren are even taller than she."

This December is a very busy month for Aiza as she fulfills singing engagements in Los Angeles and in Hawaii. She just came from Japan where her signature song "Pagdating ng Panahon" reportedly was a big hit even among the Japanese.

Aiza has completed filming "Bahay ni Lola," which hopefully will be an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival. To finish the movie, Aiza momentarily quit her studies at the University of Sto. Tomas where she is taking up Fine Arts.

Asked what her previous movie was, she says she can't recall anymore. Her mom does, however, and says, "Combat Computer." Aiza shakes her head and murmurs, "*Si* Mommy *talaga.*"

HER time has come for Aiza Seguerra.

In the Regal movie, Aiza plays the younger sister of Manilyn Reynes.

Aiza is also in "Iron Lady," produced in Thailand and distributed locally by Solar Films. For local audiences, the movie has been dubbed in Filipino, with Aiza using her own voice. She plays the tomboyish coach of a volleyball team of gay members.

Her first and very big hit recording, "Pagdating ng Panahon," has inspired a current movie that stars Sharon Cuneta and Robin Padilla. Aiza promises to see the movie.

On "ASAP" recently, "Pagdating ng Panahon" the album was certified five times platinum by the Philippine Association of Record Industry (Pari). This means the album has sold more than 200,000 pieces since it was released last April.

Aiza says she will always be grateful to Vicor for giving her the big chance to be a recording artist, because she has always loved singing. She loves it so much she is willing to do it even for free, such as during the weddings and birthdays of friends.

Just this morning, Aiza didn't mind waking up early so she could sing at the flag ceremony of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. She sang "Lupang Hinirang" and got a hearty breakfast for it, for free.

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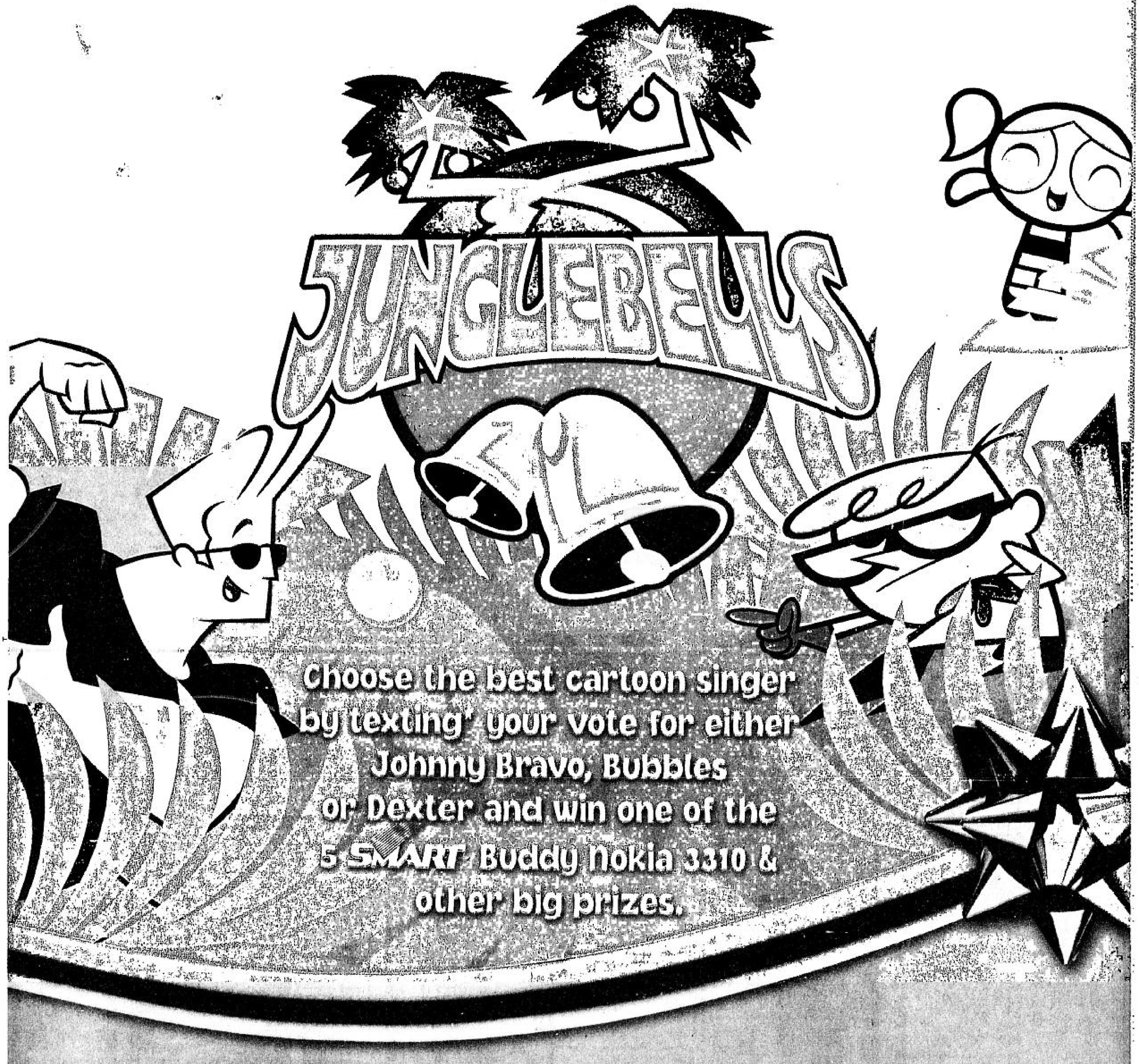

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3. All successful entries will be charged P 2.50 per message sent.
4. Prizes are as follows:
   a. 5 SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 cellphone kits. (Exclusive to SMART Text Promo contestants only)
5. Other prizes (For Jungle Bells Text Promotion, E-mail and Mail contestants)
   a. 1 TOYTOWN toy showcase
   b. 200 Cartoon Network Powerpuff Girls / Dexter's Laboratory/ Johnny Bravo watches.
6. Grand draw will be on January 22, 2002.

Logos, Ring Tones, Picture Messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets.
SMART Cartoon Network rates: P 2.50 per inquiry • P 12.00 per download.

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	TIKIM
8	SERENDIPITY

CENTERPOINT 7149522-7180416

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	HARRY POTTER
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	WEYT A MINIT
7	HARRY POTTER
8	SERENDIPITY
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	TIKIM

CITY FAIRVIEW 9350349

1	TIKIM
2	THE ONE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	HARRY POTTER
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC.
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?
11	SERENDIPITY
12	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

CITY MANILA 5230240

1	MONSTERS, INC.
2	SERENDIPITY
3	THE ONE
4	HARRY POTTER
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	HARRY POTTER
7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
11	TIKIM
12	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

MEGAMALL 6331801 • 6329401

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SERENDIPITY
3	MONSTERS, INC.
4	HARRY POTTER
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	HARRY POTTER
7	THE ONE
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
11	ANO BANG MERON KA?
12	TIKIM

TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

CITY NORTH EDSA 9203452

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	TIKIM
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
7	HARRY POTTER
8	MONSTERS, INC
9	WEYT A MINIT
10	ANO BANG MERON KA?
11	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
12	SERENDIPITY

SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	SERENDIPITY
7	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
8	HARRY POTTER
9	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
10	TIKIM

GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	TIKIM
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

CEBU 2313876

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SERENDIPITY
4	SAKIM
5	KING OF GLADIATORS
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	MONSTERS, INC.

ILOILO 3200422

1	SERENDIPITY
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	MONSTERS, INC
7	CLOSED
8	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

PAMPANGA 7120015

1	HARRY POTTER
2	MONSTERS, INC
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SUCAT 8294615

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

DAVAO

1	MONSTERS, INC.
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	KAPITAN AMBO
4	HARRY POTTER
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

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1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	HARRY POTTER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	TIKIM In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	HARRY POTTER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	HARRY POTTER THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SERENDIPITY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	MONSTERS, INC. In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	MONSTER, INC. In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	PAGDATING NG PANAHON In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MONSTER, INC. In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HARRY POTTER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	REGINE AT THE MOVIES NOV. 30 / DEC. 1, 7, 8, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	HARRY POTTER THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	MONSTER, INC. In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MONSTER, INC. In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HARRY POTTER In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2 (SDDS)	MONSTER, INC.
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4 GOLD (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MONSTER, INC.
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
8	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	SERENDIPITY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	TIKIM
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	TIKIM

st★rmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MONSTERS, INC.
5	TIKIM

METROPOLIS st★r
543.3927 loc. 150

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	TIKIM
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5	MONSTERS, INC.
6	HARRY POTTER
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	MONSTERS, INC.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	TIKIM
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
A	TIKIM

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM
4	MONSTERS, INC

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TIKIM
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8 (SDDS)	MONSTERS, INC.
9 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM
4 (SDDS)	MONSTERS, INC.
5	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	KAPITAN AMBO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM
4	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
5 (SDDS)	MONSTERS, INC.
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
8	WEYT A MINIT

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5 (SDDS)	MONSTERS, INC

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	SEDUCE OBSESSION

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	TIKIM

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	RESERVE
4	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
5	TIKIM

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MONSTERS, INC

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM

Berma
tel 079.2029

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	TIKIM

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2165 / 534.2198

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	MONSTERS, INC

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	MONSTERS, INC.

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS, INC
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE ONE
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	TIKIM
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4 (DTS)	MONSTERS, INC

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS, INC
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	KING OF GLADIATORS
5	DUGONG ASO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	MONSTERS, INC.

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	HARRY POTTER
3	MONSTERS, INC.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2	MONSTERS, INC.
3	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 (DTS)	DUGONG ASO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DUGONG ASO
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 901.0790

1	THE BODY
2	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	MONSTERS, INC

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GALLERIA 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	HARRY POTTER
8	TIKIM
9	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10	SERENDIPITY

THX

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	MONSTER, INC.
2	HARRY POTTER
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	TIKIM
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	HARRY POTTER
7	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HARRY POTTER
3	TIKIM
4	TIKIM
5	OTHERSIDE OF THE LAW
6	MONSTER, INC.
7	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
8	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

NOVALICHES 936-3229 TO 31

1	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	MONSTER, INC.
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7	TIKIM
8	HARRY POTTER

IMUS (046) 471-6199

1	HARRY POTTER
2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3	TIKIM
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	PAGDATING NG PANAHON

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SERENDIPITY
3	THE ONE
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	KAPITAN AMBO
6	DUGONG ASO

ILOILO (033) 336-9077 / 9078

1	HARRY POTTER
2	SERENDIPITY
3	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4	MONSTER, INC.
5	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6	MONSTER, INC.

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPITAN AMBO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WEYT A MINIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	GLITTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	EARTHQUAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	UNFAITHFUL WIFE / SEX MEDUSA
ODEON	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ODEON-2	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	GLITTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	TIKIM
CINEMA-7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-8	KAPITAN AMBO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-12	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-14	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-3	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-4	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-6	HARRY POTTER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Gary V revs up for Yule

THIS MONTH, Gary Valenciano revs up for a series of shows to kick off the Christmas season.

First on Gary's list is "Once Again It's Christmas," 7 tonight at the Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. The show will feature Gary with the Manoeuvres and The Powerplay Band, with Mon Faustino as musical director.

After his Cebu show, Gary immediately packs his bags and returns to Manila for another concert, "Gary V: Revive."

Inspired by his multi-platinum album under Universal Records, the show is set Dec. 4, 8 p.m. at Crossroad 77 (Mother Ignacia corner Scout Reyes Streets, Quezon City). Gary will be joined by the Manoeuvres and The Powerplay Band.

The concert is staged as a benefit for the Come to Jesus Community Church's church-building project. Dinner is 6:30 p.m. and show time is 8 p.m.

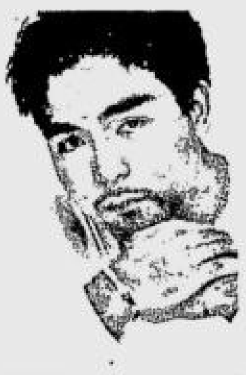
Aside from these two shows, Gary was also the special guest at the DLSU victory party last Nov. 29.

The party was to celebrate La Salle's victory at the UAAP men's basketball championship this year. Gary is a La Salle Greenhills alumnus.

On Dec. 15, Gary will mark another special event, the launch of Gary V: Limited Edition Microphone at SM Megamall, to be followed by a special Christmas show at Glorietta on Dec. 18.

Gary ends 2001 with a New Year show at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

For more information on Gary's schedules and appearances, call Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. at 721-4405.



CAMO. A second chance

Pops . . .

(From page A27)

fault because the trend changed."

He went through difficult times but he was undaunted. His music kept him going. He wrote songs that became hits for the likes of Rico J. Puno and Alynna.

One night, while watching a show, Lito felt how much he missed the applause. He lost no time in writing tunes for himself. He approached the executives of BMG Records and proposed to repackage his album, which would carry the new pop tunes he wrote.

Apparently, the recording bosses listened and gave the musician from Mindoro a second chance with "Ano Camo Ulit." Lito is back, with a reinvented sound and image. His re-released CD contains 12 of the original tracks, plus new ones—"Miss na Miss Kita," "Isang Halik Ko Lang" and "Minahal Kita."

"I'm more comfortable with this kind of sound," he says. "My father said I should have done this in my first album."

Let's listen to Lito this time.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Show business turns to prayers

THE PROFESSIONAL Artists Managers Incorporated (PAMI) is inviting everyone connected with the film and TV industry, plus those in radio and the recording fields, to participate in a solemn Mass to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at the St. Louis Chauvett Chapel (inside St. Paul College) on Gilmore Avenue, Corner Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.

The Mass is expected to serve not just as a healing process for those who have been directly and greatly affected by the series of tragedy that have befallen several members of the industry, but as an act of absolution as well.

In this supposed traumatic moments, many have discovered the power of prayers, not to say unity.

Prayer, in fact, is what makes Dolphy (whose son Vandolph figured in a vehicular accident) and the families of Nida Blanca, Ray Ventura, Ricky Belmonte, Eddie Rodriguez, Jun Encarnacion and movie writers Rober Perez and Ray Cañete, continue to move after the deaths of their loved ones caused them so much misery.

For those who are attending, please be informed that two entrances to the St. Louis Chauvett Chapel are available: Gate One for those coming on foot and Gate 4 for those with cars.

ABS-CBN news team in Afghanistan

JOIN ABS-CBN "Correspondents" Patrick Paez, Jim Libiran and Ed Lingao in their perilous journey into the heart of Afghanistan. With INQUIRER cameraman Dennis Sabangan and ABS-CBN veteran cameraman Val Cuenca, they are the very first Philippine news team to enter Afghanistan and reach the capital Kabul.

The Afghanistan special will be aired on "The Correspondents" tomorrow, Monday, early edition at 5:30 p.m. and producer's cut at 11:30 p.m.

Join the team as they travel through the Kybher Pass, where almost every male bears an AK-47 or an RPG launcher.

Go with them into Jalalabad airport and see the remains of Taliban tanks, trucks and helicopters hit by US air strikes.

See how they were flagged down and robbed by heavily armed bandits on the lonely long road to Kabul. And find out how they came out of the experience alive, even as four other colleagues from the Western media were killed in the same area by possibly the same bandit group the very next day.

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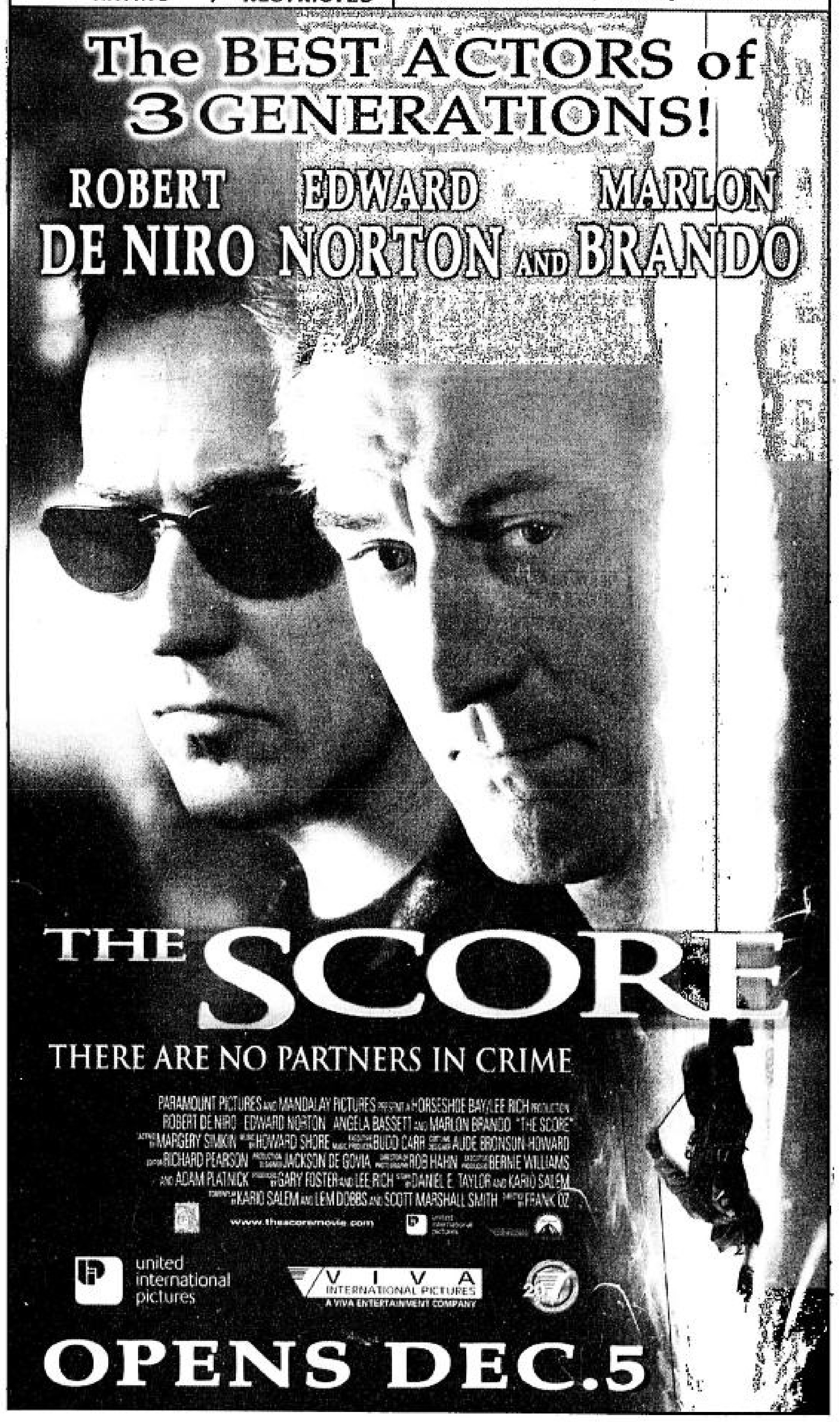
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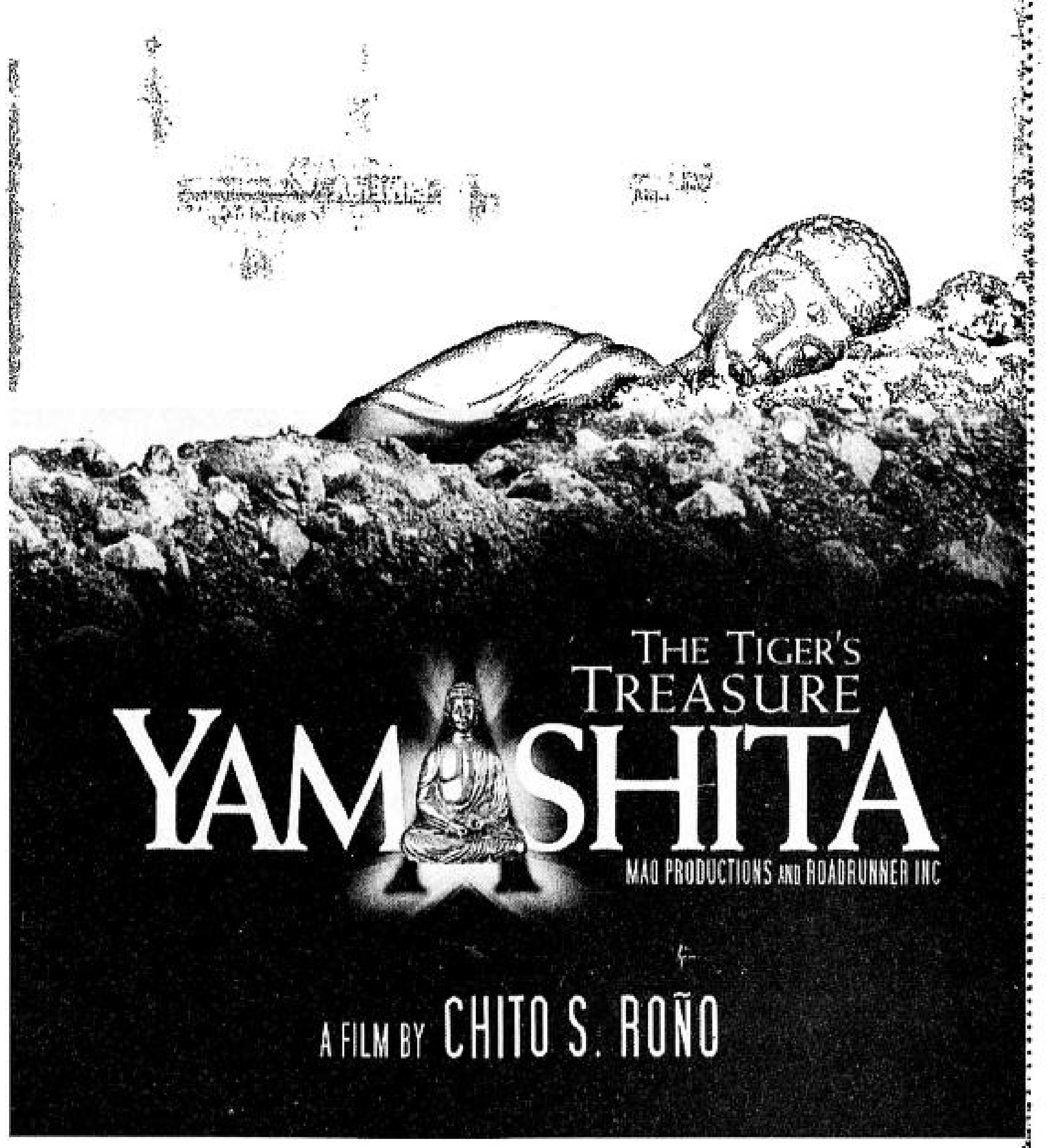
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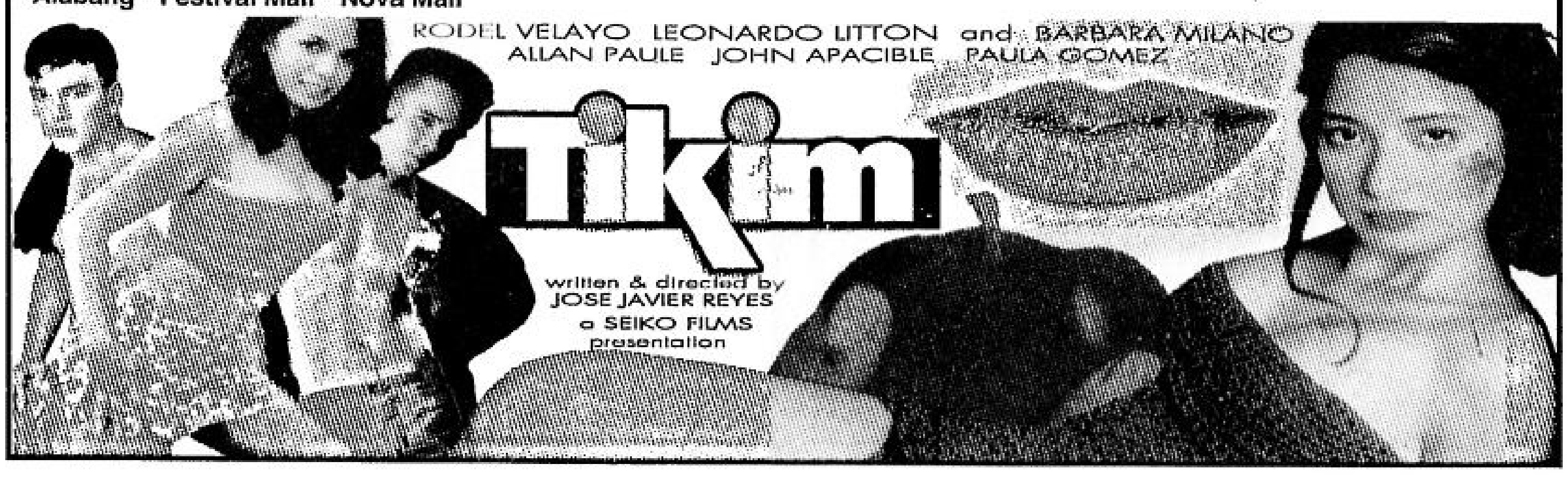
The Greatest Secret Never Told.
THE TIGER'S TREASURE
YAMASHITA
MAQ PRODUCTIONS AND ROADRUNNER INC
A FILM BY CHITO S. ROÑO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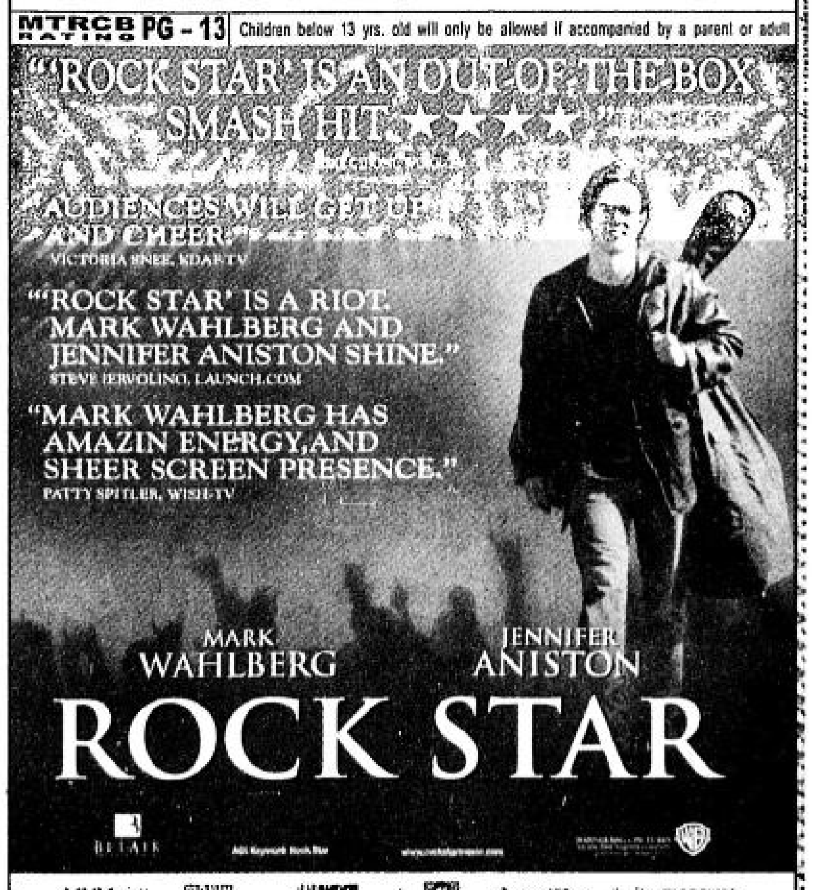
RODEL VELAYO LEONARDO LITTON and BARBARA MILANO
ALLAN PAULE JOHN APACIBLE PAULA GOMEZ
Tikim
written & directed by JOSE JAVIER REYES
a SEIKO FILMS presentation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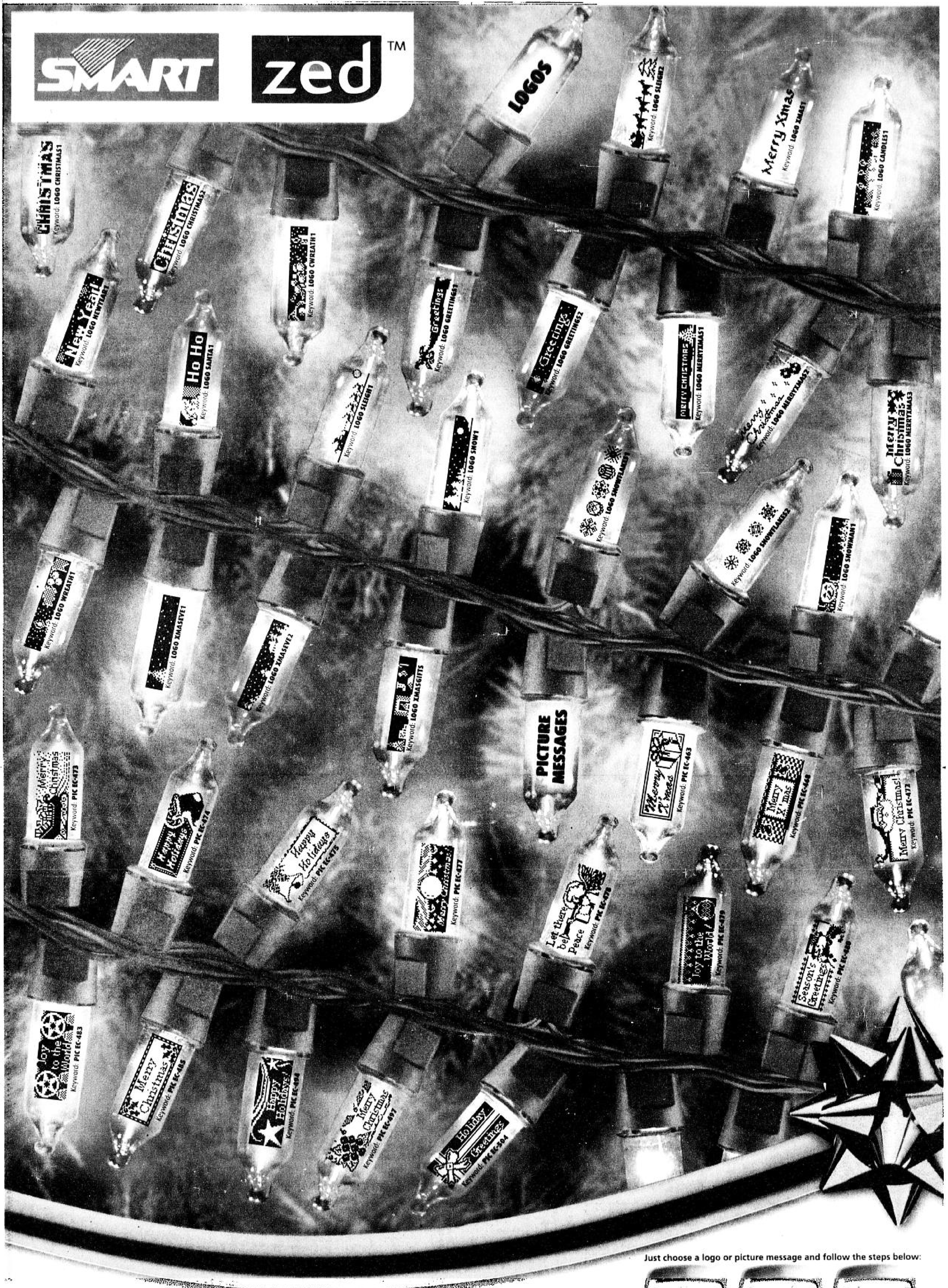
"'ROCK STAR' IS AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX SMASH HIT. ★★★★"
"AUDIENCES WILL GET UP AND CHEER." VICTORIA SNEE, KDAF-TV
"'ROCK STAR' IS A RIOT. MARK WAHLBERG AND JENNIFER ANISTON SHINE." STEVE IERVOLINO, LAUNCH.COM
"MARK WAHLBERG HAS AMAZIN ENERGY,AND SHEER SCREEN PRESENCE." PATTY SPITLER, WISH-TV
MARK WAHLBERG JENNIFER ANISTON
ROCK STAR
BEL-AIR
MYX mossimo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CHRISTMAS Keyword: LOGO CHRISTMAS1
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Keyword: LOGO CWREATH1
Ho Ho Keyword: LOGO SANTA1
Keyword: LOGO SLEIGH1
Greetings Keyword: LOGO GREETINGS1
Keyword: LOGO SNOW1
Keyword: LOGO SLEIGH2
Merry Xmas Keyword: LOGO XMAS1
Keyword: LOGO CANDLES1
Greetings Keyword: LOGO GREETINGS2
MERRY CHRISTMAS Keyword: LOGO MERRYXMAS1
Merry Christmas Keyword: LOGO MERRYXMAS2
Merry Christmas Keyword: LOGO MERRYXMAS3
Keyword: LOGO SNOWFLAKES1
Keyword: LOGO SNOWFLAKES2
Keyword: LOGO SNOWMAN1
Keyword: LOGO WREATH1
Keyword: LOGO XMASEVE1
Keyword: LOGO XMASEVE2
Keyword: LOGO XMASGIFTS
PICTURE MESSAGES
Merry Christmas Keyword: PIC EC-473
Happy Holidays Keyword: PIC EC-474
Happy Holidays Keyword: PIC EC-475
Merry Christmas Keyword: PIC EC-477
Merry X'mas Keyword: PIC EC-463
Merry X'mas Keyword: PIC EC-444
Merry Christmas! Keyword: PIC EC-472
Let there be Peace Keyword: PIC EC-478
Joy to the World! Keyword: PIC EC-479
Season's Greetings Keyword: PIC EC-480
Joy to the World Keyword: PIC EC-483
Merry Christmas Keyword: PIC EC-485
Happy Holidays Keyword: PIC EC-494
Merry Christmas Keyword: PIC EC-497
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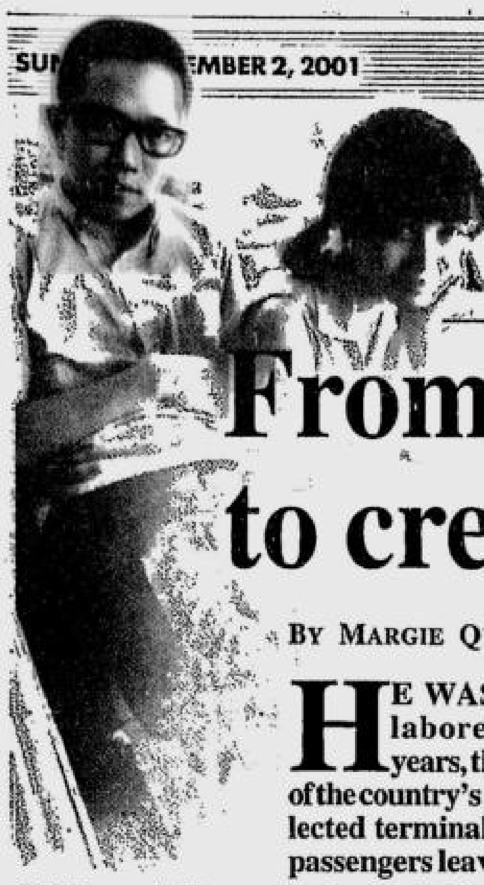

GREG and Myrna Garcia circa '70s.

From collecting ₱6 terminal fees, to creating some unforgettable ads

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE WAS classified as a skilled laborer and for 1-1/2 years, the man who created some of the country's most memorable ads, collected terminal fees from thousands of passengers leaving the Philippines.

Gregorio D. Garcia III, now president of Entertainment Network (the group which brought CNBC, the business news network, into free TV in the Philippines), worked from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for P6 a day to augment his father's modest earnings.

The year was 1962 and Garcia was 19 years old.

After work he would attend night classes at the UP Manila in Padre Faura to finish his Business Administration degree.

FIRST JOB

The Manila International Airport (now the Ninoy Aquino International Airport), was new and every young man's dream then was to travel.

At that time the counter for the ticket, immigration and terminal fee was the same unlike now where you go through three different windows.

Garcia said he met a lot of tourists but he can never forget one incident where a tourist gave a bill that needed change. One of the collectors said in accented English "wait a minute sir" to which the passenger angrily replied "I just want my change why do I have to wait for a minister."

"It felt like an important job then. We had the discretion to check whether a passenger was exempted or not," he recalled.

Plus it enabled Greg, the eldest in a brood of eight, to help in the household expenses. He says he would accumulate two weeks' worth of salary instead of getting it weekly, so his take home amounted to about

FROM/ B2

GREG and Myrna met at Ace Compoton and formed part of a "rebel group."

LOURDES Bordeos (right) with Norly Bobis showing samples of exotic, hand-made bags bound for the summer sale in a dozen store chains in the United States.

9-11 costs bag exporter ₱25M in sales

By Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—The Sept. 11 suicide attack, which reduced the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City into a pile of twisted steel and pulverized concrete, also dealt a very serious blow on the livelihood of businesswoman Lourdes Bordeos, 57, and the thousands of workers who depended on her hand-made bag export business.

Bordeos was scheduled to be in New York City only days after the tragedy to finalize a deal with World Wide Dreams, one of the biggest importers for at least a dozen US retail chains like Sears, Wal-Mart and JC Penny. She was thankful though that she was not there when the tragedy happened.

In time for the Christmas shopping season, the deal for an initial order of 120,000 pieces of hand-made bags and other novelty items was worth over $500,000 (some P25 million).

Moreover, it could have paved the way for a more stable and increasing flow of Philippine handicraft exports to the North American market, including Canada.

"It could have meant a very happy Christmas for thousands of workers and suppliers because we saw it as the biggest marketing breakthrough for us this year," said Bordeos, owner and general manager of the brand LRR Handicrafts (named after her and children Rowena and Rolando).

Global market

Bordeos said the recent aggressive marketing strategy and highly improved quality and progressive designs have also made the handicraft industry in the Bicol Region very competitive, especially in overseas markets.

"The US, being the biggest market in the world, is, of course, the testing ground for all world-class products," she said.

Despite this drawback, however, which she sees as temporary, all is not lost in her quest to gatecrash into the American market, in particular, and the world market, in general.

Already, she has firmed up negotiations with another major American distributor, Los Angeles, California-based Tandem Imports, which has a wide distributorship in the West Coast.

She said the American firm has placed an initial order worth $150,000 (P7.5 million) for the summer season.

Her bags and other handicraft novelty products have earlier whetted consumer appetites in Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.

For next summer's stocks, three Japanese importers—Machuda, Amina and Amico—have placed a combined order of $40,000 (P2 million). Then there is Australia-based Birdman Imports, also with a $40,000 order.

Although she considers Asian countries like Hong Kong as smaller markets, these are, however, among the more consistent importers of her products during the last 10 years and have greater potential for expansion in a post-world crisis economy.

Trade fairs

For more than two decades, life to the Bordeos meant shuttling between her home-cum factory here, her office in Parañaque City and trade fairs.

Rather than dull her life, this routine has seemingly kept her entertained and her business in full steam.

"What most people do not realize is that going to trade fairs, especially joining them, is a chance to see the whole country and the world at a glance and in a perspective which is very conducive to business," she said. That was only hours after coming back from a successful show at the Philippine Travel Mart trade fair at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Bordeos admitted that trade fairs have also served as her business training grounds because of the invaluable opportunities and experiences they offer.

"Trade fairs are where I have met all types of buyers, from the casual tourist-type bargain hunter to the serious ones representing giant store chains, and I would advise others regardless of how small his business is, to take the same opportunities I availed of," she said.

9-11/ B3

'Tis the Season
to be really,
really late.

Buy now and pay next year with

Ford NOW PAY LATER

LYNX

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT		INSTALLMENT 36 mos.	INSTALLMENT 48 mos.
1.3L	P555,000	P130,000	PAY 90 DAYS AFTER	P16,000	P13,250
GSi MT	P640,000	P145,000		P17,750	P14,500
GSi AT	P675,000	P155,000		P18,750	P15,250
Ghia MT	P730,000	P165,000		P19,500	P16,000
Ghia AT	P765,000	P175,000		P20,500	P16,750

RANGER

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT		INSTALLMENT 36 mos.	INSTALLMENT 48 mos.
XL 4x2	P644,000	P150,000	PAY 90 DAYS AFTER	P19,000	P15,250
2.9 XLT	P738,000	P170,000		P20,000	P16,250
Trekker	P805,000	P190,000		P23,250	P19,000
XLT 4x4	P980,000	P200,000		P27,250	P22,500

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From November 16 to December 31*, get a Ford Lynx or a Ford Ranger at a low downpayment and start making your monthly payments in 90 days - that's next year.
Be late. Be really late. You'll get to drive a Ford Lynx or a Ford Ranger now and simply take your time.

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Ford Alabang, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang - Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City; Trunk Lines [illegible] Ford Balintawak, EDSA cor. Seminary Road, Balintawak, Quezon City; [illegible] Ford EDSA, 28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila; [illegible] Ford Libis, 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; [illegible] Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231 [illegible] Ford Quezon Avenue, Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street, Quezon City; [illegible]
Ford Cabanatuan, Maharlika Highway, Sumacab-Este, Cabanatuan City; [illegible] Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; [illegible] Ford Bacolod, Araneta St., Barangay Singcang, Bacolod City; [illegible] Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City 6000; [illegible] Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; [illegible]

For small tasks, eat the frog; for huge work, eat the elephant

"Eat That Frog!"
By Brian Tracy
Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

EAT THAT FROG!
21 Great Ways to Stop Procrastinating and Get More Done in Less Time
Brian Tracy
Author of The 100 Absolutely Unbreakable Laws of Business Success

EVERYONE is shocked and dismayed at the revelation that Justice Francis Garchitorena is sitting on 341 cases, some of them pending for more than 10 years. For his procrastination—by habit or by design (e.g., the cases of Imelda Marcos, et al, are in his division)—the Supreme Court relieved him of his duties as administrative head of the graft court.

Wasn't it Nortcotte Parkinson who said that "work expands to the time allotted to it?" If you have one week to finish work, you will finish it in one week. But, if you're given only a day to complete it, you'll have it over and done with in one day.

Justice Garchitorena has 90 days maximum, after submission for resolution, to promulgate the decision (source: Neal Cruz, "As I See it," PDI, Nov. 30), and so Garchitorena does not even fall under the Parkinson principle.

The Justice's case is simply illustrative of many cases of procrastination that are happening everyday at home, in offices, in factories and in schools. Inspite of the fact that postponing one's task has been a lesson we learned early in life (like, "Don't postpone for tomorrow what you can do today"), tackling the day's business is always the most difficult thing to do.

You come to your office, and your staffers are busy with the entertainment pages of your newspaper—and the staffers justify this by saying they are "setting themselves in the mood" for work! You check your manager's work, and he is busy answering his e-mail, rationalizing that he is "doing away with little tasks" before he takes on a huge task staring him in the face.

Many pieces of advice have been offered, and thousands of books on "time management" have been published. It turns out, it's not *time* we should be *managing*—it's *ourselves*. That is if you believe Brian Tracy, author of the helpful book with a shocking title (yuck!): **"Eat That Frog!"**

Let me issue a warning to crime reporters on television and radio with which they preface their gruesome reports: "Don't read this while taking your breakfast," especially when you get this unforgettable (because traumatic) line from Mr. Tracy: "If you have to eat two frogs, eat the ugliest one first." Let me quickly add: The author is talking about something else—a subject that's more helpful than a frog. He says:

"Your 'frog' is your biggest, most important task, the one you are most likely to procrastinate on if you don't do something about it now. It is also the one task that can have the greatest positive impact on your life and results at the moment."

If there's a book that should make it easy for you to procrastinate no longer, this book of 118 pages will do the job—with a bonus: You will be introduced to great thoughts from influential and powerful persons giving us tips on the principles of "focus," "concentration," "passion" and "achieving your single biggest mission."

Subtitled "21 Great Ways to Stop Procrastinating and Get More Done in Less Time," the book has 21 brief sections dealing with one "great way" at a time. The first section speaks about deciding what task to tackle first. A helpful blurb goes, "Here's a great rule for success: 'Think on paper.'"

I remember an uncle whom I visited in the US, a super-salesman. He gets up early in the morning, goes to a corner with his notebook, and plans his sales calls for the day. It turns out that's the secret of his being "super."

Mr. Tracy reveals an interesting fact: "Only about 3 percent of adults have clear written goals. These people accomplish five and 10 times as much as people of equal or better education and ability but who, for whatever reason, have never taken the time to write out exactly what it is they want."

"Take action on your plan immediately," he advises. That's easy. So, we ask: What about tasks that take some time to complete—like maybe a huge engineering project or writing a book? Mr. Tracy has the answer, too: "Resolve to do something every single day that moves you toward your major goal."

Now, you know why some people get more things done, while others seemingly equally busy, come up with much less.

The few times I watched former Senate President Jovito Salonga work, I discovered how he accomplishes great tasks—not only for himself, but for the country: He writes his daily tasks on a notebook, makes his own calls when he should, visits his associates to get them to support his cause—and then, before you know it, he is launching a book with a *tour-de-force* dimension or he is rallying his senators abrogating the American military bases. No mean accomplishments, if we may say so. How does he do it? He begins with the ugliest frog, if we must use Tracy's extended metaphor.

Maybe, the more appropriate metaphor is the elephant! The author writes: "You have heard the old question, 'How do you eat an elephant?' The answer, of course, is 'one bite at a time!.'" A lot of friends ask me: "How can you read one book a week?" My answer: For thin books, I eat the frog; for thick complicated books, I take on the elephant in bite-size chapters!

This book is witty, warm-hearted and helpful. Procrastinate no longer. Go to the nearest bookstore. You'll never know when you need to speed up pending work. I don't know about you, but some have become a sorry case of "a frog on the frying pan"—blissfully enjoying the warmth of the pan until it is fried alive. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

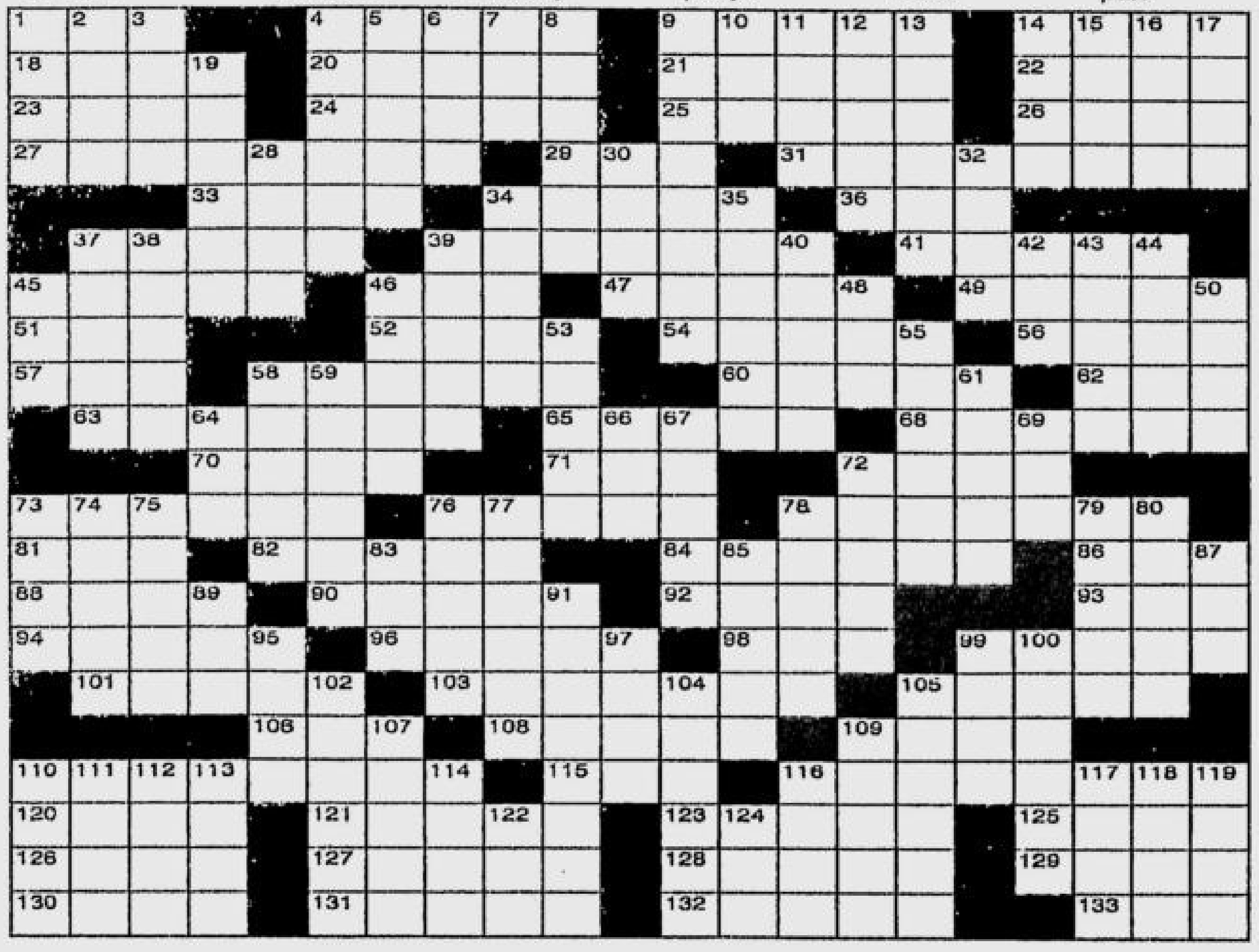
A PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Brimless hat
4 Entertain or Erato?
9 Trophy or city district?
14 Be an accomplice or wager?
18 Sills solo
20 Chemical element
21 Less adorned
22 O'Hara homestead
23 Minus
24 Dolt
25 Marsh bird
26 Ken of "thirtysomething"
27 Waterfalls
29 Furrow
31 Emotionally arduous
33 Spouses no more
34 — cotta
36 Peculiar
37 De Mille or Moorehead
39 Be in a pageant
41 George of "Just Shoot Me"
45 Thickens
46 "— is me!"
47 Fish for a dish
49 Shady spot
51 Goal
52 Simple shelters
54 "Got — You Into My Life" ('66 song)
56 Figure of interest?
57 Mao —-tung
58 Land or beacon?
60 Mead's milieu
62 Canonized Mlle.
63 Eulogy
65 At — for words
68 Result
70 It really smells
71 Spoil
72 Rent- —
73 Morsel for Dumbo
76 Error
78 Obsolete title
81 Lend an — (listen)
82 Schipa or Bergonzi
84 Quantity or steed?
86 Cry of discovery
88 Particle
90 Automaton
92 French couturier
93 Soho snack
94 Varnish ingredient
96 Fall decoration
98 Creepy Christopher
99 Jeweler's weight
101 Link
103 Looked like Hook?
105 Planned a burglary
106 Uh-uh
108 Yorkshire features
109 David's instrument
110 Cavorts in the pool
115 Make lace
116 Trees-to-be
120 Pub orders
121 Cover story?
123 Fuming
125 Authentic
126 Barrett or Jaffe
127 Romeo and Juliet
128 Neighbor of Mali
129 Actress Raines
130 Perched on or toy?
131 Make amends or pitch?
132 Collect or religious service?
133 Drink like a dachshund

DOWN

1 Soft mineral
2 Locality
3 TV's "Our — Brooks"
4 Dwells
5 Ways
6 "Topaz" author
7 — Canals
8 Main course
9 Like some art
10 Pale
11 Like 102 Down
12 Printer's proof
13 Expects the worst
14 Like — of bricks
15 Part of Indonesia
16 "— go bragh!"
17 Sharp taste
19 Upward movement or aroma?
28 Fires
30 Poetic pots
32 Concept
34 Choppers
35 Opposite or hybrid?
37 Tilted or roster?
38 Private Pyle
39 Moulin —
40 Forum fashions
42 Growl sound
43 Embarrass or big party?
44 Government game
45 Purrfect pet?
46 Singer Barry
48 Rep. rival
50 "— Petite" ('57 song)
53 Put one's foot down
55 Big-billed bird
58 Concerning or match?
59 Sheen
61 Separately or role?
64 Hostelry
66 — Cruces, NM
67 Mountain nymph
69 — Lanka
72 Blue hue
73 Compote component
74 Consumed
75 Stood up or flower?
76 Rock's Los —
77 Approximately or boxing division?
78 Acted like a dove
79 — Dame
80 In front of or leader?
83 Eggy beverage
85 Jazzman Davis
87 — bran
89 Cowboy Tom
91 Essay's big brother
95 "— on the Run" ('90 film)
97 Walter — Mare
99 Composer Orff
100 Yearn or steeple part?
102 North African feature
104 Eye part
105 Piquant buds
107 Spartan serf
109 Can't stand
110 Poet Teasdale
111 Scheme
112 Carson's successor
113 PDQ, politely
114 Farm building
116 It's a long story
117 '94 Jodie Foster film
118 Extravaganza
119 Clout a cad
122 Big —
124 Wheel part



ANSWER ON PAGE B5

ADVERTISING greats. Gregg Makabenta, Luis Morales and Greg Garcia.

From collecting ₱6 terminal fees, to creating some unforgettable ads

(From page B1)

P70. He would give his mother P50 and they would buy groceries that lasted the family two weeks.

"I had enough money left to go to the movies on weekends and do some gallivanting. Movies then cost P1.20; a hotdog sandwich, P0.30; and a bottle of softdrinks, P0.15. Jeepney fare was P0.10," Garcia recalled.

After college he came upon an ad of Ace Compton, then one of the country's largest advertising agencies, for a copywriter.

Out of 300 applicants he was one of the two it hired on a probationary basis.

"My salary was P300 a month and at that time that was wow because the minimum wage then was only P150 a month," said Garcia.

How did a young man, who had to repeat fourth year high school because his parents were not always able to pay his tuition at the Letran College on time, best 300 applicants?

"I had a unique application letter as I didn't know how to write a formal leter so I sent a card that stated "My IQ is 8". IQ stood for interesting qualifications and I enumerated eight of what I then perceived were my best attributes," he remembered.

Garcia's interest in advertising started in high school. Since his parents had to support eight children, there was not always enough funds. Garcia says there were times when he could not take his exams because his tuition were unpaid.

Instead of being embarrassed because of unpaid fees, Garcia would play truant.

Reading about advertising

After finishing whatever money he had for movies, he would hang out at the USIS library and read all kinds of advertising books.

"I found the reality in advertising so fascinating. I decided I would be in advertising," he said.

He got his first break at Ace on his third week at work when Tony Zorilla (who later became a news anchor and put up his own ad agency) called him to his office and asked him to do a 15-second TV commercial for Comfies, the popular sneaker brand at that time, in an hour.

"I sweat a lot but I came up with an ad that they used," Garcia smiled.

At that time slide commercials were used, meaning the photos were stills.

Of the two who were accepted, Garcia said he was the only one who passed the probationary period. His salary was increased to P350, which he said he partly turned over to his mother.

"But at that time I had a crush on the receptionist, Myrna, who later became my wife, so I kept some to buy clothes and to pay for our dates," he said.

To impress his future wife, he took her, her sister and brother-in-law to a dinner date at D'Marks, the former popular pizza place, then located along Donada Street in Pasay City. He recalled blowing a P50 on that dinner date!

He said of course the amount seems so small now, but at that time when a hamburger steak at Makati Supermarket cost P1, a copy of Time Magazine sold at P0.75, flagdown of a taxi was P0.15 and every additional mile was P0.5, P50 was a very big amount.

Rebellion

Life was smooth for Garcia at Ace Compton for a year and a half but in 1966, Tony Zorilla "led a rebellion and together with 24 of us, we quit at the same time. I convinced Myrna to come along."

The group thought they could best Ace.

"We felt we were God's gift to advertising," joked Garcia. ZMMP Advertising was born. The name represents Zorilla, Loi Martinez, Antonio Mercado (who later became head of Publicis) and Narciso Pimentel III. Minyong Ordoñez, now head of Basic Advertising, and comedian Noel Trinidad were also with the group.

It was an all-star cast. "We figured we could bring half of the account of Ace and become an instant big agency."

They were supposed to be housed at the Insular life building but they only stayed three days in the building because McCann Erickson, another ad agency, complained to the building owners about the presence of a competitor.

They moved to the Supreme building along Buendia (now the Landbank building).

The group quit in October. By December they still had no account. ZMMP had to be split into two agencies—Pacifica Publicity Bureau under Zorilla and Link Advertising under Mercado—for it to survive.

Garcia ended up with Zorilla and each staff had to get accounts no matter what his position in the firm was.

At that time he had a friend working at Banco Filipino and the owner, Tomas Aguirre, wanted the people behind the ad campaign of People's Bank and Trust Co.

Greg said they were the ones who did it while still with Ace and the campaign as unique because it veered away from the traditional lines of banks then which were basically "towards a better future" or "partners in progress."

People's Bank's line then was something like "the bank with a smile" with lines, according to Garcia, like "Catch us not smiling and we will give you P0.50 on the spot."

Thus he was able to bring the Banco Filipino account into Pacifica. The ad campaigns he drew up for BF were centered on three uniqueness of customer relations management.

Garcia, however, was called back by Ace Compton and offered P1,000 to be the agency's copy chief. He grabbed the chance. But on his first day, Aquirre called him and offered him the same pay level.

He joined BF in 1967. The first thing he did was bring the advertising in house.

A YOUNG Garcia withmentor Tomas Aguirre who created a real estate empire.

Brilliant mentor

Garcia knew he was in good hands with Aguirre whom he described as having a brilliant marketing mind. He was assistant to the president.

When there was a bank run at PSBank, then the largest savings bank in the country, there were long lines of people pulling out their money. A man with a megaphone was asking people not to pull out their money and explaining that rumors about the bank were unfounded.

Seeing this, Aguirre immediately ordered all teller booths to be manned and told his people to transact all withdrawals quickly and to make sure no lines would be formed in the bank premises. He told his people to smile and be cordial to the clients.

Further, he put P2 million to P3 million in cash in the lobby of the bank, located at Plaza Sta. Cruz. PSBank's branch stood at Plaza Miranda.

His actions created an image of stability, which eventually drew the depositors away from PSBank and into BF.

Eventually this led to their famous line, "*Subok na matibay, subok na matatag*" which Garcia drew up closely with Aguirre.

When Aguirre diversified into hotels, setting up the El Grande Hotel and Tropical Palace, inside BF, Garcia was made the EVP of Bagumbayan Corp., the holding company.

During his years with BF, Garcia learned a lot about human psychology from Aguirre but after several years in the hotel business, he knew it was not his cup of tea. He really missed advertising.

Going on his own

In 1979, he approached the old man and asked if he can just buy Hemisphere, the in house advertising agency that was set up in 1972, and a joint venture with the Philippine Advertising Counsellor.

Aguirre agreed. Garcia borrowed P200,000 to buy BF's share and he asked Gil Yuson, who was running the firm, to also buy PAC's shares.

It was a good partnership, according to Garcia, and in 1983 the group took in Leo Burnett, an American agency, as a partner.

Garcia was chair and creative director while Yuson was president.

Some of Hemisphere's memorable ad campaigns were:

- "*Para sa nagdadalaga*" campaign for Newtex where they got Janice de Belen, then one of the hottest stars because of her role as Flordeluna. The brand became No. 1.
- Introduced the white Tide bar which eventually shifted the market from blue bar users to white bar users.
- The BF Happy Savers Club. Garcia explained that the thesis behind this was to get the mothers who will bring in their kids who will grow up with them.

Initial estimates showed the most deposits they could get was P35,000 but the cost of the campaign was P100,000. In the end it generated deposits of P700,000, higher than the deposits of another savings bank.

- Actor Dolphy's ads with McDonald's.
- Joy "*papel de lambot.*"
- Anchor Milk's "Greatest Love of All" ad.

At the end of 1999, to greet the new millenium, Garcia decided to turn over the reins of Hemisphere to younger blood. Plus he wanted to pursue other entrepreneurial dreams.

Today, on top of his involvement with EN, he remains a consultant of many, including Virgie Ramos and Dr. Vicky Belo, for his marketing know-how.

And while he has retired from agency work, Garcia is set to pursue more ventures that can put to use his creative juices.

One of these he says is a new concept in memorial parks and another in the entertainment side.

HE QUIT his post to give way to young blood and pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

No easy way to raise money for the poor

By Dennis M. Arroyo

A CLASS is in progress in UP Diliman. Then a group outside knocks on the door and makes a special request for the professor. Can they sing a love song for a member of the class, Mr. so-and-so? They have been sent by his girlfriend. The teacher agrees, and the choir brings in a guitar and a bouquet. They proceed to serenade the guy, who squirms and blushes from the attention and teasing.

That's a fundraising activity pioneered by a group called Ictus, or the In-Christ Thrust for University Students. It's based in UP Diliman and celebrates its 20th anniversary this Dec. 8, the Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception. This article can't be purely objective, for Ictus is my college organization.

Charity work galore

Ictus resorts to many fund raisers, for it is deeply involved with serving the poor. Every week all the members tutor poor kids from public schools and give lessons to scavenger kids in the Payatas dump site. They teach catechism, and give play therapy for kids with cancer. Over the years, they have cared for several thousand children.

Tutoring the poor children helps upgrade their education, and some go on to high school and even to college. Ictus raises scholarship funds for the brighter kids, supporting them from elementary school to college.

The approach works. Ictus tutored and sponsored a kid nicknamed "Isma" in Grade 4. He went on to top his classes in elementary and high school. He passed the admissions tests for UP Diliman and took up engineering. Then he pursued his Master's degree in engineering. Isma worked in a Bangkok multinational before coming back to Manila.

Another kid scholar was Maida. She is now a lawyer, having graduated from the UP College of Law in 1993. A poor child enjoyed the support of Ictus through grade school and high school. She eventually finished college and worked for a multinational firm in China.

"Ictusians" visit the kids suffering from cancer in the Philippine Children's Medical Center. Their play therapy helps dull the pain from the chemo treatment. They make a lot of young friends and lose them.

Ictus also drops in on the inmates of the New Bilibid Prison. In the medium security compound, they entertain the inmates with song and dance numbers.

Then there are medical missions in the provinces and trips to the Golden Acres home for the Aged.

Quite a heavy load

The Ictus work load is heavy and hectic.

"It's Saturday morning and our daughter, Dessa, is rushing to go to the UP Chapel to meet up with her friends," writes Romeo Virtusio, a father of a member. "They are in a hurry to go to Payatas to teach out-of-school children who have signed up to learn the three R's."

"On a Wednesday when she's supposed to be off from school, Dessa ends up with a schedule that takes her to Golden Acres to see a group of old folks," continues Virtusio. "Days before, she's busy with her friends getting *pasalubong* and *merienda* for these elderly.

Virtusio adds that she's pounding on the computer, listing contact persons for a fundraising project for the scholars.

"And the thing is, all her friends in Ictus have the same schedule," he notes.

The clubhouse is near the UP Catholic chapel. It was built during the term of Joey Fermin, who entered the Jesuit order. Fr. Jose Fermin S.J. is the present Headmaster of the Ateneo Grade School.

Creative fund raising

Financing all that charity work creates even more work. The community sponsors concerts, movie premieres and film reruns. Then there are the usual rummage sales and Christmas caroling nights.

The members join many campus contests to raise funds. A few years ago Ictus won 1st place in the car-stuffing contest. They set a record by cramming 27 members—girls, for they took up less space—into a Nissan.

Early in the 1990s, the group joined a TV quiz show and made sure to win the cash prize—it sent 2 teams to compete against each other. They are now preparing for a Harry Potter quiz show.

The raffles help. Companies donate their products and Ictus raffles them off to friends in Diliman.

ON TOP of singing and joining contests to raise funds, Ictus members help take care of kids with cancer.

Lives deeply changed

The alumni say that the group has affected their lives profoundly. Many graduates continue to serve the poor in their own ways.

One is a neurosurgeon who has chosen to practice in the poorer provinces. An alumnus works for an NGO that attends to the Mangyans of Mindoro.

Another continues to visit the New Bilibid Prisons twice a month. An alumna is a leading light in a cancer care group. Another alumna is involved with poverty alleviation policy for the Asian Development Bank. Some corporate executives give part of their salaries to support the scholars. Alumni abroad are much into volunteer work as well.

(Send your comments to dmarroyo@hotmail.com.)

9-11 costs . . .

(From page B1)

Design piracy

In recent years, Bordeos is seeing some unsettling clouds in the horizon threatening her business.

The popularity of the Philippine handicraft products, particularly uniquely designed novelty bags, is feeding the frenzy of cheap copycats already inflicting severe damage to other products from most Asian countries.

Already, low-priced counterfeits coming primarily from Taiwan and China are flooding the markets.

In a trade fair she attended in Hong Kong last year, Bordeos said she was secretly warned by an American businessman never to sell her design samples to the Taiwanese or Chinese traders because sooner or later they will run her out of competition with cheap pirated copies.

An advice, although coming late and of very little use for entrepreneurs like her, should be a wake-up call for the government to crack the whip.

"It will be very hard to compete with them (pirates) once they have copied your designs because with bigger capital and a wider network, they have virtual free reign of the Asian and global counterfeit markets," she said.

Counterfeit handicraft designs are only one among the latest victims of piracy that has had debilitating effects on the mainstream economy and which most governments admittedly they have very limited power to control.

In the domestic scene, Bordeos has noted that many Bicol-made products are being mislabeled as made in Cebu, Baguio or elsewhere.

"Most of them are either done by Bicol craftsmen hired by big capitalists from outside the region, or made in Bicol but labeled differently," she said.

Adding to this concern, according to Bordeos, is that very few original designs in the country are being registered with the Philippine Patent Office because of the inability of the government to strictly enforce the laws against their infringement.

Humble beginning

Bordeos said the basically home-based handicraft industry in the Bicol Region, by recent estimate, directly provides sustainable livelihood to over 20,000 persons.

Her business enterprise, which has helped significantly to spur the local industry, started humbly and rather unintentionally.

As a young public schoolteacher at the San Antonio Elementary School in 1971, she was encouraged by her principal to implement the Work Education subject by teaching her Grade 4 pupils the art of basket weaving.

In the late '60s, the handicraft business was gaining popularity in the region and at its forefront is the hand-woven bag.

The young wards got no farther than learning to make rattan bag handles when some businessmen offered them to make handles for 10 centavos per pair under an "earn while you learn program."

Soon after, they realized that what they envisioned as merely a pupil cooperative project to fund school expenses and various campus activities had gone beyond their expectation as more orders for bag handles were placed.

Within months, the whole community, upon realizing further that the humble enterprise needing limited skill could be a real source of income, jumped into the bandwagon.

Not long after, it spread like wild fire.

"All my time was taken up between taking care of my two young children, teaching and going off on weekends to Metro Manila for the deliveries of up to 10 pairs of bag handles a month," she said.

Quitting her teaching job in 1977, she teamed up with her husband Roly to become sub-contractors of bag handles and later, the whole bags.

Faced with the problem of coping with the growing demand of the domestic and foreign consumption, the husband-and-wife team collaborated with the then National Cottage Industry Development Authority in teaching mostly Bicol housewives and unemployed women the art of bag weaving.

Family enterprise

The Bicol handicraft business runs in a system of exporter-contractor who has under him several subcontractors, with the desired volume and quality of orders dictated by the buyers.

The sub-contractor, as middleman, supplies the exporter with the desired orders done by workers whom he supplies with raw materials and whose labor he pays for under the *pakyaw* system.

Within the system, the exporter with limited investment capital is not burdened with providing the physical plant and the prohibitive cost of maintaining a regular workforce.

With husband Roly gone, Bordeos and her two grown-up children run the LRR Handicrafts.

She takes care of the general management, specifically the production side of the business.

Son Roly Jr., now 29 and a graduate of Customs Management, handles the shipping and export, while daughter Rowena, 32, as an architecture graduate, is tasked with the designs.

Sense of mission

Looking back to over 20 years in the business, Bordeos said she feels a certain fulfillment and satisfaction in what she and her family have accomplished.

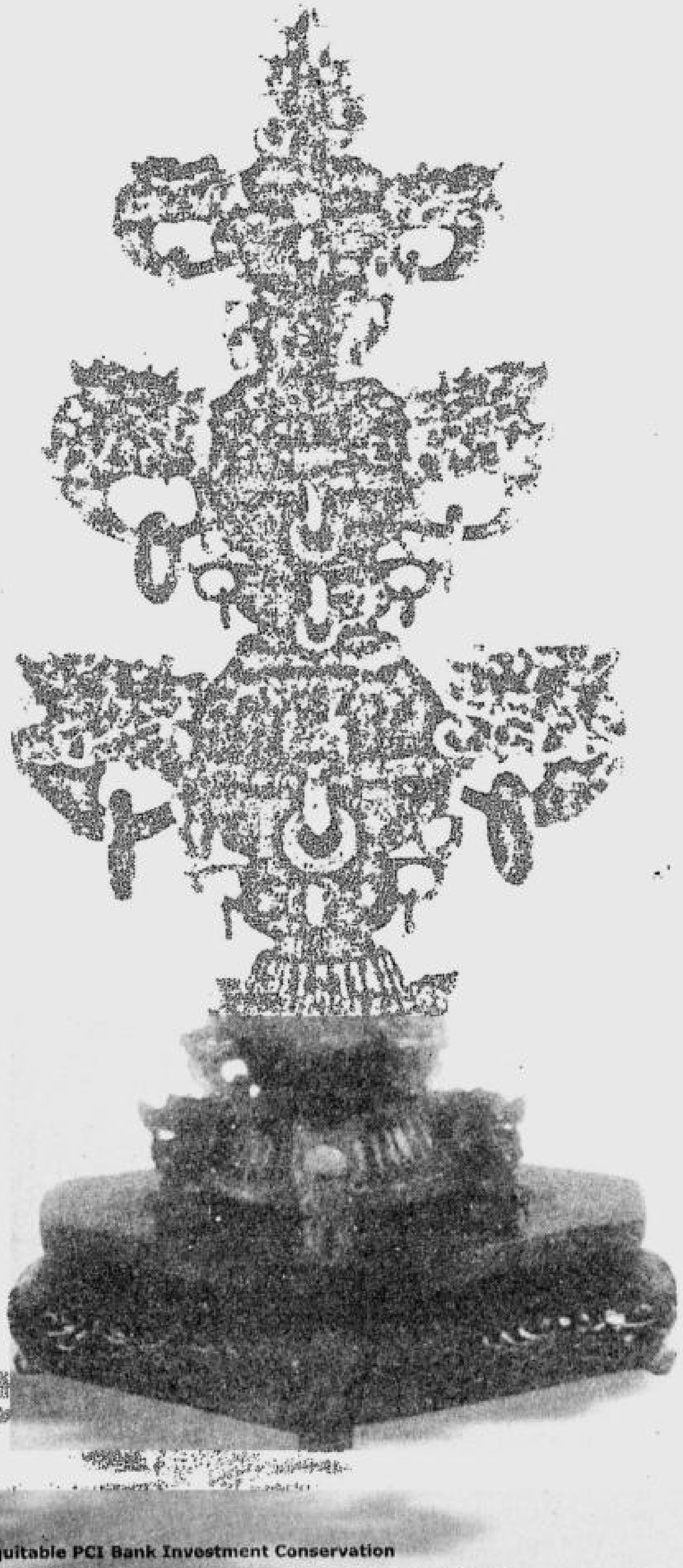
"I believe it is not enough that we get our own stomachs filled. More fortunate people like us have to have that sense of mission for others who have less in life," she said.

By her most recent estimate, the bag-making industry is giving gainful employment to more than 20,000 people, mostly housewives and unemployed women who are obligated to stay at home.

Depending on the level of their skills and the volume of household chores they do, their daily income ranges from P50 to P150.

"I am happy doing this. At least, I gain something

9-11/ B5



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People, Events & Products

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AIM receives pinstripes sustainability award

THE ASIAN Institute of Management has been named "One of the top international business schools preparing MBAs to manage the complex social and environmental challenges of the global marketplace." The AIM is featured in the biennial report: Beyond Grey Pinstripes: Preparing MBAs for Social and Environmental Stewardship which was jointly released by the Aspen Institute Initiative for Social Innovation through Business and World Resources Institute (WRI), the US-based publishers of the biennial survey.

According to Judith Samuelson, AI-ISIB executive director, "The AIM is one of three business schools around the globe awarded for cutting-edge work to integrate concepts of social and environmental stewardship into business education."

"We have made a commitment to integrate sustainability and social impact management as part of our core Master in Business Management and Master in Management Programs offered under the AIM's Graduate School of Business Management because these considerations should not stand outside the main arena of business decision-making," said dean Eduardo Morato Jr.

"We are proud of this award and we welcome this opportunity to validate the work we have been doing as a pioneer management education institution in Asia. Through our other degree and certificate programs delivered by our Center for Development Management, Asian Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center – we have indeed prepared a diverse aggrupation of Asian students to lead in a world where sustainability and social stewardship skills are just as important as technical, financial or marketing skills," the dean added.

As dean of the Institute and concurrent Environment Management System (EMS) representative, Morato further explained the involvement of the AIM community of students, faculty and staff: "as the first management educational institution with conference facilities to merit ISO 14001 status, we publicly declared that environmental sustainability is a living commitment at the AIM. This not only means continuous improvement of our EMS at operational levels, but also the continuous development of our research, teaching and networking activities to further mainstream environmental management concerns."

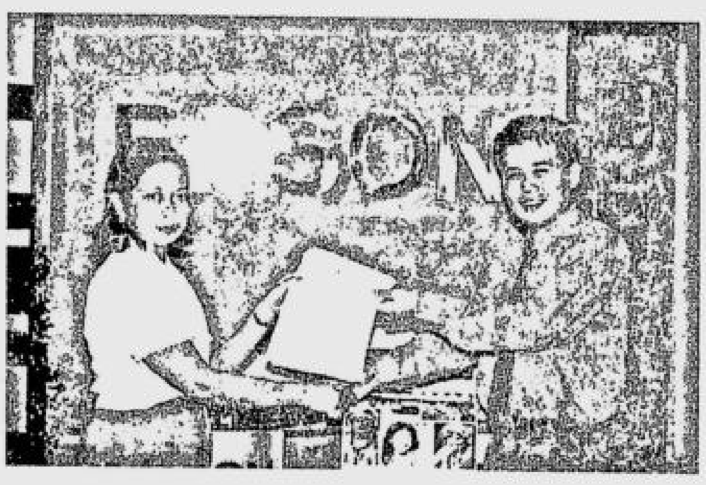
Morato reported that the AIM recently published in mid-2001 another breakthrough quantitative and qualitative research initiative on Environmental Management Systems in Southeast Asia authored by AIM business management professor, Dr. Purba H. Rao. This came in the heels of an earlier book on community-based resource management, ''Bending the Wind'', written in 2001 by AIM development management professor Dr. Benjamin C. Bagadion. He also cited the forthcoming launch of a Cities Management Program to be spearheaded by Institute's Center for Development Management involving the complementation of the management education and technology expertise of the AIM and the Asian Institute of Technology.

Clearly, the AIM dean realizes that his organization bears further watching. Widely recognized in the Asian region for its innovative thrusts in the field of management education, the conferment of the Pinstripes Sustainability Award underscores the unique and greater role it now must play not only to facilitate but especially to expand partnership and capacity-building initiatives in the region, given the converging interests in environment management of enlightened government, business and civil society leader-managers, many of whom belong to AIM's 30,000 strong alumni network.

The awards were conferred during a breakfast and symposium on "Going Global: Do Tomorrow's Leaders have Yesterday's Skills?" hosted by Citigroup at its New York headquarters on Park Avenue. On hand to receive the award, the only Asian awardee, was AIM president Roberto de Ocampo. The Alcoa Corp. and the Citigroup are the project's main corporate sponsors. The project brought together concerned constituencies to give them the opportunity to share ideas and benchmark activities. The other awardees included Harvard Business School and Yale University and other faculty and institutional awardees in other achievement categories.

PLDT-SIEMENS PARTNERSHIP

PLDT recently signed an agreement with Siemens for the creation of seamless digital geographic landbase and facility map and centralized database of its outside plant network for the whole country. The Map Conversion Service is a high-volume process of geographic-based map creation facility data standardization and network map presentation that maintains a high degree of accuracy and completeness. PLDT's decision to create an integrated landbase, network map and facility database is another milestone in providing faster, more efficient and more effective service to its customers. Present during the signing were (from left) Guenther Binder, Siemens SVP for information and communications; Jean Philippe Adolff, Siemens AG director for regional sales outside plant engineering in Asia; George Lim, PLDT senior vice president for network development planning group and Jesus Pasicolan, vice president for project implementation center.



SHELL-EPSON TIEUP

The Shell companies in the Philippines and Epson Philippines Corp. recently signed a memorandum of agreement to promote digital fine arts among Filipino students through the succsessfully concluded 34th Shell National Students Art Competition. Epson provides its products as prizes to winning participants. Shown (from left) are Shell corporate affairs coordinator for media Chupsie Medina and Epson marketing manager Randy Kanapi.

METROBANK NAMED TRUSTEE OF PETRON RETIREMENT FUND

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, was recently appointed trustee of the retirement fund of the Petron Corp. Bataan Refinery Plant. Shown (from left) are Petron officer-in-charge and vice president for finance and human resource management Antonio Pelayo, Metrobank trust committee chair Cielito Habito, Petron president and chief executive officer Motassim Al-ma'ashouq and Metrobank senior vice president Josefina Sulit after the signing of the agreement.

MOPC APPRECIATES PNP

MOPC president Hector R. Villanueva hands over to director–general and PNP Chief Leandro R. Mendoza the plaque of appreciation for the successful PNP night at the Manila Hotel. Looking on are MOPC governors (from left) Johnny Dayang, Noli Santos, Tony Seva, Nelia Gonzales, Eduardo Alcaraz and Antonio Lopez.

Bankard's Installment MegaFair makes Yuletide purchasing easier

WITH Christmas fast approaching, sensible shoppers are alert to any opportunity for them to purchase gifts and other much-needed items at the best possible price.

Their not-to-be missed chance is here again – with the forthcoming launch of the annual installment MegaFair from Bankard Inc., featuring special deals on a wide range of appliances, furniture and many more items available "in-store" among participating establishments.

From Nov. 15 to Jan 15, Bankard One Credit cardholders will be treated to a wide-array of special treats, including flexible payment schemes, and special giveaways.

The "First-Give Forgive" promo is one such treat. Enjoy a monthly installment rate of as low as 1.6 percent for an 18-month purchase of P10,000 and above using Bankard One. The first amortization is free, meaning payment doesn't begin till after 60 days.

The second treat is reduced monthly rates for the other installment terms of 3, 6, 9, 12, 24 and 30 months.

Holders of Bankard MF1, Bankard MasterCard and Bankard Visa can also use their cards on a normal straight-charge basis.

And in keeping with the Christmas spirit, participating dealers will give free premium items with selected purchases by early customers.

The Bankard Installment MegaFair in-store promo will be held at participating dealers in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga and Cebu. These dealers include Abenson, Ambassador, Ambiance One, Anson Emporium, Automatic Center, Avid Sales Corp., Blims Fine Furniture, Electroworld, Home Value Center, Home Plus, SM Appliance Center, Sogo, Western and Walter Mart.

Bankard One is issued by Bankard Inc., a pioneer in the credit card industry and now a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies. One of the top credit card issuers in the country today, Bankard operates one of the largest merchant networks, with more than 25,000 accredited establishments accepting its cards.

For more information on Bankard and its world-class services, call 634-6644 or visit its website at www.bankard.com.

Several ways to own a phone at GTC

THE GREENBELT Telecom Center (GTC) at the second level of Ayala Center's Greenbelt Mall is offering cell phone users several ways to own, upgrade or personalize their favorite communication tool.

With an ever-increasing variety of booths, cell phone aficionados can choose from any of the wide range of pre-paid and post-paid bundles from Globe Telecom, Smart, Touch Mobile and Talk N' Text. These feature not only popular models from familiar brands like Nokia, Ericsson, Siemens and Alcatel. They also feature newly released phones in the market that offer compatibility with Nokia ringtones and graphics.

Nokia ringtones are written in what is called "RTTL", the ring tone text language and there are now phones that can parse or process RTTL data from other manufacturers such as Mitsubishi's new Trium Geo which comes with several housing accessories in color schemes similar to Apple's iBook computers. Then there are the Sendo phones that are smaller, and yet packed with equivalent features of today' most popular cell phone model with a strikingly similar user interface. You just have to see it to believe it.

Also featured at the GTC are a new generation of cell phones capable of polyphonic ring tones such as the Sony CMD-J5 which has ring tones that sound like a quartet rather than a single instrument. The Sony phone can also record actual sounds and use these as a ring tone.

Those who feel that their current phone is already technically or stylistically challenged can head straight for GTC's swap booth and strike a deal to trade-in his unit for the latest and greatest model he has been aspiring for.

GTC also offers good news to Internet freaks. The latest line of General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) equipped phones have arrived in several GTC outlets. GPRS offers high speed, "always on" wireless connections to the Internet. Accessing the Internet from a cell phone was always possible in the past given the right accessories, but with GPRS, access speeds approach that of regular computer-based connections – up to three times the speed of previous cell phone based connections.

Check out Nokia's 8310 and the Ericsson R520 and T39 for the latest in high-speed wireless communication. With these units, surfing the web in the thick of Edsa's crawling traffic is now a reality and only the traffic would be slow.

Those who are after making a personal statement but are not yet ready to change their phones had better check out the wide array of customization services at the GTC. Performed by expert technicians, GTC clients can confidently leave their phone for a makeover while they catch a movie or their own personal makeover. A wide variety of backlight colors, phone housings are available. It is also possible to upgrade the exterior appearance of a relatively old model such as the Nokia 8210 to a more eye-popping 8850.

All GTC outlets accept a wide range of credit cards including BPI Express Credit and BPI Mastercards which offer frequent user benefits that GTC habitues would appreciate.

There is beauty in harmony with Beaubelle skin care

BEAUBELLE, Swizerland's leading skin care institute, offers its home care line to restore and stimulate one's body, mind and soul in harmony. Its products are being used exclusively and can be purchased through Metamorphosis Skin Care Center at the 4th floor of the Blue Building, 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City. For appointments, call 438-7749..

AB COMM NEW VETERANO BRANDY AD AGENCY

AB Communications Inc. was recently appointed by Osborne International and ADP Industries Corp., the exclusive distributors of Veterano Brandy, as their advertising agency. Shown during the contract signing are (seated, from left) Stanley Manski, Osborne Internacional regional director; Arthur D. Palileo, ADP Industries Corp. president and Tom Banguis, AB Communications president, while looking on are (standing, from left) Tina K. De Dios, ADP Industries Corp. marketing manager; Albert A. Ebbay of ADP and Ten-ten Leido, AB Communications Inc. management supervisor. "We are truly honored to have bagged this prestigious account. Through creativity and hard work, we will help Veterano further increase its share in the local brandy market," Banguis said. AB Communications handles some of the country's leading accounts, including Zest-O Corp., Splash Manufacturing Corp., Universal Robina Corp., Red Bull, Goldilocks, Pfizer, Nissan, Hunt's, Philam Plans, Novartis, Sterling Tobacco, Universal Canning, SCA and Brown Forman, among others.

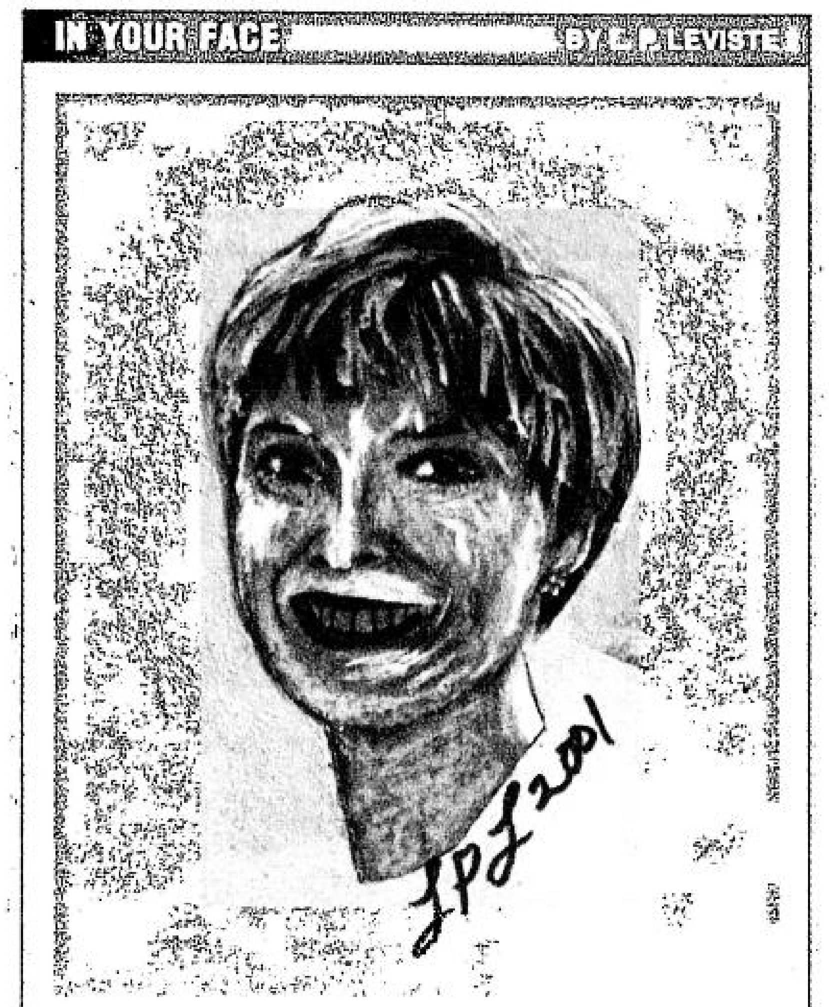
NESTLE ICE CREAM FEEDING PROGRAM

Some 500 children from Barangays Damayang Lagi and Mariana, and another 300 from Barangay Valencia in Quezon City were beneficiaries recently of a feeding program hosted by Nestle's Ice Cream Division (ICD). The program was spearheaded by HRM manager Luz Tanquintic and implemented by volunteer employees from the ICD.

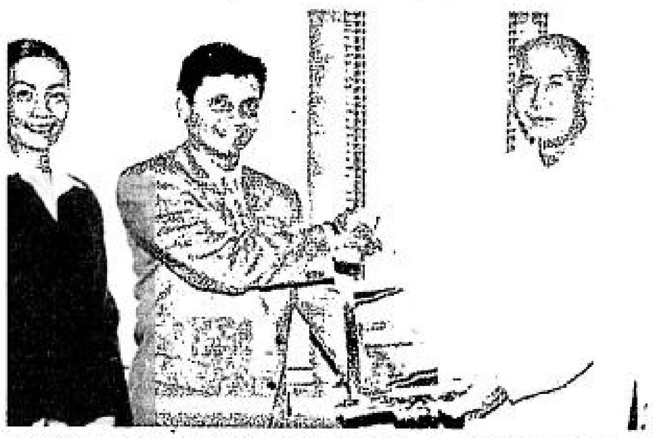
CPSP SEMINAR

The Corporate Planning Society of the Philippines (CPSP) held a successful seminar on strategic planning and management entitled "Moving Companies Forward: Dynamic Approaches to Strategy" at the Manila Peninsula recently. The event as well attended by key officers from the Philippines' Top 200 corporations and members of the academe. Shown is one of the distinguished roster of speakers, Dante Y. Go (right), receiving a plaque of appreciation from CPSP president Pamela Ann Da Silva and CPSP vice president Jun Bernardo. Go is presently senior vice adviser to Sugarland Beverage Corp. which has been made part of the San Miguel Group of Companies.

IN YOUR FACE BY E. P. LEVISTE



STANDARD Chartered Bank president Anne Marie Durbin, a new mom who belongs to the generation of women who do the balancing act between motherhood and a career. Durbin became head of the Philippine operations of the bank amid the current economic and political turmoil but shows the strength and persistence to tough it out.



ALLIED Bank president Reynaldo A. Maclang, (second from right) accepts the National Student's Program plaque of appreciation from James Sundram, Asian Wall St. Journal circulation director (second from left) to recognize their support in building future competitiveness. AWSJ country manager April Antonio and Asia Brewery Inc. VP Michael Tan join them.

How many stubs to win in a raffle?

DR. JOSE Bowen Poblete and wife Dr. Gloria Poblete

DENNIS Florendo

CARMEN de los Santos

BABY Veracruz

MINDA Quintanilla

'TIS the season for merriment and cheer, and as the Christmas shopping frenzy heightens, more and more stores and malls are offering exciting raffle promotions to their shoppers.

Whether it may mean winning a car, some cash, or appliances, one never seems to get over the thrill of winning a raffle prize. We may ask: What does it take to be a raffle winner, how many stubs must one have to win a prize, what do most winners do with their prizes? Is there such a thing as beginner's luck or wishful thinking? Is there such a thing as a standard winner's profile?

One of the ongoing raffles is the **Shop & Win** daily raffle promotion at the Super SM Hypermarket at the SM Sucat Supercenter. Every P500 single purchase until Dec. 15, 2001 entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win P10,000 in the daily raffle.

Baby Veracruz, Dennis Florendo, Dr. Gloria Poblete, Minda Quintanilla, and Carmen de los Santos all came, shopped, and went home richer by P10,000 at Super SM. Here are their winning stories.

Baby Veracruz, an interior designer who lives in nearby Multinational Village says that there is nothing like winning an instant prize. She was on one of her regular shopping trips at the hypermarket, purchasing meat, fruits, vegetables and grocery items on the day she won.

She had just gotten home when she got that fateful call and she immediately rushed back to claim her prize. She then treated the staff, bought some stuff for her daughter, and treated her nephew and house help when she got home.

Admitting that she's at Super SM "all the time," she says that the meat, fruit and vegetable sections are her favorites. "I come here instead of the wet market because it's cheaper, cleaner, and more convenient," she says. "I already have my own *sukis* here."

Dennis Florendo had two stubs the day he won the raffle promotion. He had just purchased "things for my baby, as well as groceries, meat, chicken and a few toiletries.

A medrep at the United Laboratories, he was hosting a family reunion at his home in Better Living Subdivision when he learned he had won. Dennis, who is at the hypermarket once a week, never fails to check out the audio-visual stuff at the appliance section when he's there. He, in fact, has been eyeing a Sony television set for their bedroom which he hopes to buy "with the money I've won."

It was a case of beginner's luck for Dr. Gloria Poblete, who won P10,000 the first time she visited the hypermarket. Although she and her husband Dr. Jose Bowen Poblete had transferred residence from Parañaque to Pasig, they dropped by Super SM when they visited the area.

The Pobletes bought "a lot of groceries and cold cuts" during that day, and was surprised to have won. As a working Mom, Gloria singles out the Prepared Food section—particularly the Sushi Bar—as her favorite. "You can be sure I'll be back."

Winning for Minda Quintanilla, a financial analyst at Philips Electronic Lighting meant that she could pay for her children's tuition in full. As she was about to do her groceries at Super SM, her husband reminded her about these payments, and "it was a blessing" they won.

Minda is at Super SM every weekend with her family, and they're usually at the grocery, especially the meat, seafood, and bakery sections. Minda always makes it a point to stop by the frozen food section to pick up a "Sara Lee Blueberry Cheesecake for my husband before I go home".

Carmen de los Santos of Multinational Village recalls that her lucky purchases were baby dresses, groceries and school supplies.

An auditor at the Commission on Audit, Carmen says that she's always at the hypermarket, and likes going to the linen, infants and appliance sections. It's the Seafood section, however, that's her favorite because it's always "ever fresh and very clean."

9-11 costs . . .

(From page B3)

instead of engaging in *tsismis* (loose talk), and *manghinguto* (removing head lies)," Miriam Balasta, 27, said in the Bicol dialect.

Balasta was chanced upon by the INQUIRER while busy at *pasalad* (hand weaving) a "Kenya" bag in a makeshift shed with her mother Elir, elder sister Delia and two other women doing the same near their home along the national Highway in Misericordia Village in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Her companion, who refused to give her name, betrayed her being a novice at the chore, saying nevertheless that she is glad she makes P39 a day.

This was a scene all too common in most rural areas in the region.

Tens of thousands of other Bicol women are similarly glad despite the pittance income because the *pasalad* is seen more like a gainful pastime.

It is squeezed in between the cooking, doing laundry, caring for the children and all other household chores.

Wish list

Aggressive marketing strategies, strict production standards and quality controls may assure globally competitive products for the Bicolanos.

But the future of the industry is, however, far from being sustainable on the supply side because of the dwindling supply of abaca and coconut-based raw materials.

Bordeos said the government could play a leading role in combating this problem if ample attention is given to it, other than to the primary cash crops of rice and corn.

The Philippine Coconut Authority holds a dismal record in its coconut-replanting program and against the illegal cutting of coconut trees.

The Department of Agriculture, specifically the Fiber Development Authority, has long seemed to have given up protecting the abaca from bunchy top and a host of other pests.

Bordeos also lamented the unregulated export of raw materials of coconut and abaca to China, Taiwan and Korea.

She said exporters of these raw materials successfully circumvent the law by putting dyes, packaging and misleading labeling in order to qualify them for export as semi-finished products.

"This practice has, in fact, stocked the weight on the counterfeiters against the legitimate Filipino handicraft industry," she added.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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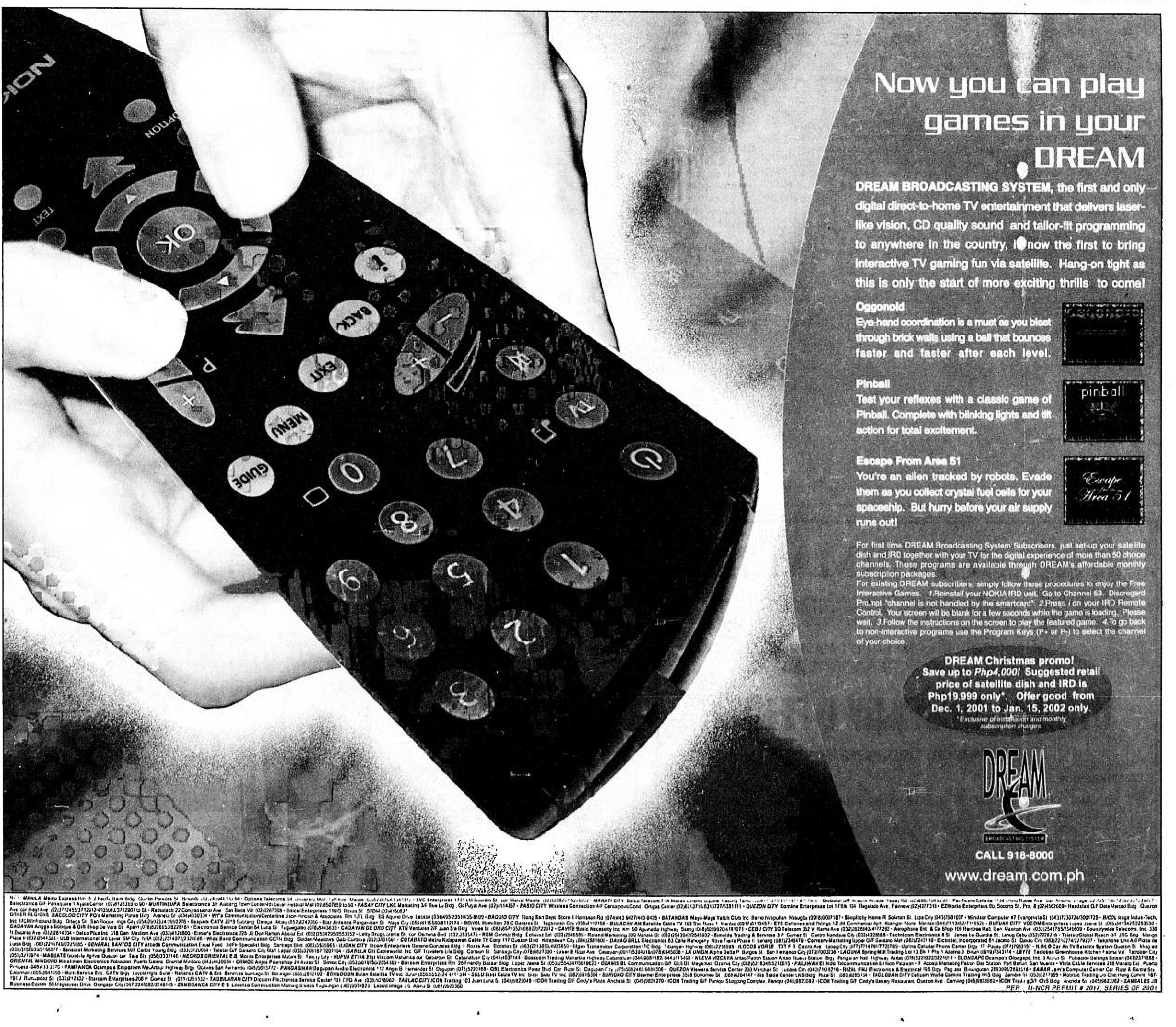

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Graduate of any business course with 3-5 years sales and marketing experience. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

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Graduate of Mass Communication or any business course. Excellent in oral and written communication, computer literate, preferably with relevant work experience. Must be smart and flexible with pleasing personality. Female, 21-23 years old, single.

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Male, 20-28 years old, at least college level. Must be hardworking and flexible. willing to work long hours.

Interested applicants may personally apply or send thru mail their application letter, comprehensive resume, with 2 X 2 picture and transcript of records to:

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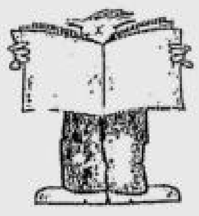

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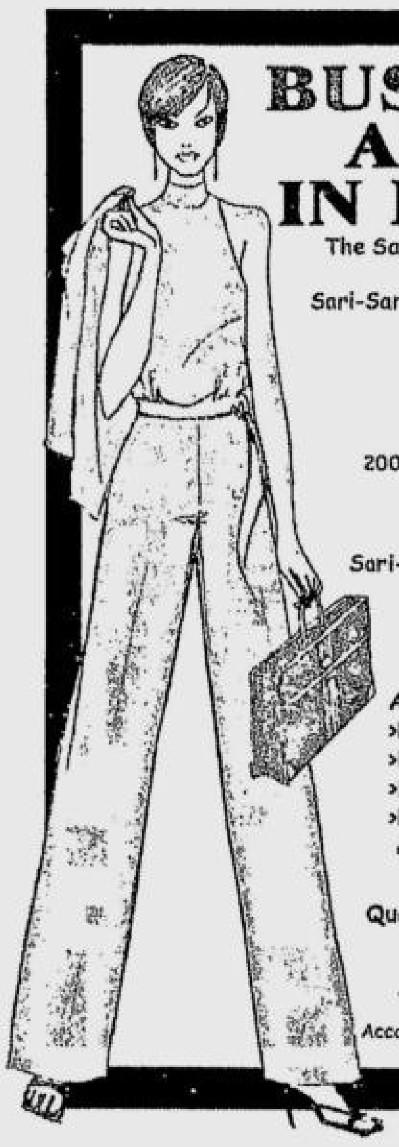

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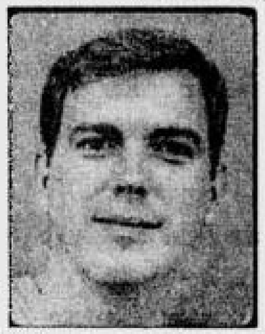

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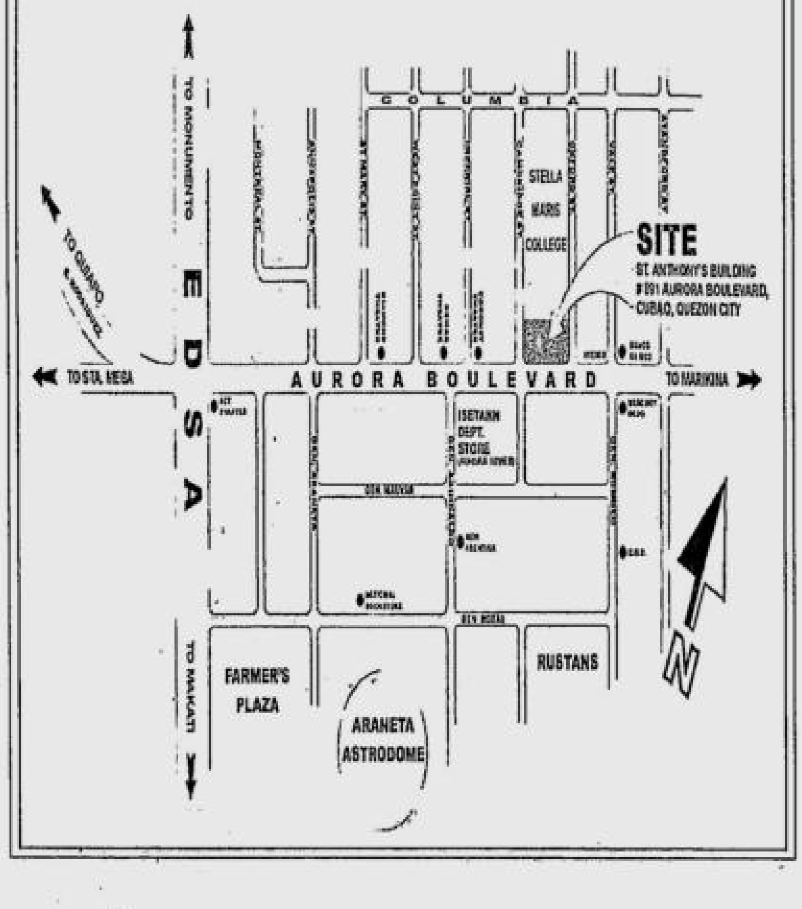
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

November 28, 2001

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites duly licensed security services to Apply For Eligibility And To Bid for the security service of POEA for the Calendar Year 2002.

BUDGET

- Source Year 2002 MOOE
- Amount PhP 6,237,312.00

ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

- Eligibility Requirements Obtained from : BAC Secretariat (c/o Leonel P. Labrador, telephone no. 7221166, 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City
- Non-refundable Fee : One Hundred Pesos (PhP 100) in Cash
- Period of Availment : **December 03-07, 2001**
- Submission of Eligibility Statement : To the BAC Secretariat not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon of **December 14, 2001**

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS/BID DOCUMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE BIDDERS

- Obtained from : BAC Secretariat
- Period of Availment : **December 17** to **December 19, 2001**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

- Date / Time : **December 27, 2001**, 10:00 AM
- Place : Conference Room of DA Management Services, 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS

- Two (02) sealed envelopes with the name of the contract to be bid, the name of bidder in capital letters, addressed to the BAC, and marked "Do not open until January 10, 2002.
- Deadline of Submission : **January 10, 2002**, 2:30 PM
- Submitted to : BAC Secretariat
- Opening of Bids : **January 10, 2002**, 2:30 PM
- Place : Conference Room of DA for Management Services 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City

APPLICABLE LAW / RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Executive Order No. 262 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

The BAC, POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof without offering any reason, to waive any required formality or defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

The POEA assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss incurred in the preparation and submission of the eligibility statements and bid, and it does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA G. DE LEON**
Director II
Officer-In-Charge
Management Services

(PDI -- Dec. 1 & 2, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Side stitch

Q. My side hurts when I run too hard. Why?

A. This sudden, sharp pain is called a 'stitch,' and it sets in when a prolonged jolting motion -- as would be experienced when running too hard or too long -- puts excessive strain on the ligaments that support the stomach, liver and spleen. Bending over will often reduce the pain, because it removes some of the stress.

For the Record. You are about 1 centimeter taller when you wake up than when you went to sleep. Why? During the day the cartilage between the vertebrae, or bones, of your spine squashes together. At night it bounces back to shape. And if you haven't noticed, girls usually have a longer forefinger than ring finger; in boys it is the other way around. Bones, by the way, contain phosphorous, magnesium, fluorine, chlorine, calcium, and iron. You have enough phosphorous in your body to make 200 match-heads and enough iron for a nail 15 centimeters long.

Pinoy First. The first daily newspaper in the Philippines was La Esperanza (Hope), which came out with its first issue this month in 1846. Amid the strict pre-publishing censorship of the times, the paper dealt mostly with non-controversial, and often dull, topics.

WORD WATCH

Ingkwentro : from the Spanish *encuentro,* "to meet."

PDI -- December 2, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132, Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786;
Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
osec@doh.gov.ph

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Social Expenditure Management Loan II
Department of Health, Philippines
Supply and Delivery of EPI Supplies
IFB No. WB-SEMP-2001-006

1. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Social Expenditure Management Loan II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Supplies.

	Items	Unit	Quantity
1.	Syringes and Needles 2-3 cc or ml x gauge 23 x 1" For DPT, HBV, MV & TTV	Pieces	21,000,000 pcs.
2.	Syringes and Needles 1 cc or ml x gauge 26 x 1/2" or 3/8" needle (Tubercullin)	Pieces	2,310,000 pcs.
3.	Syringes and Needles 5 cc ml x gauge 21 x 1 1/2" For mixing syringe of MV	Pieces	105,300 pcs.
4.	Vaccine Carrier, 0.6-0.9 li.	Set	3,000 set
5.	Safety Box, 5-7 li. For disposal of used S/N	Set	80,000 set

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Tel. No. : (632) 711-6831
Telefax No.: (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communication during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below before 9:00 a.m. on **January 10, 2002.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 9:00 a.m. on December 19, 2001.

Multi-Media Conference Room
Bldg. #18, Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. on **January 10, 2002.**

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Nov. 24 & Dec. 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET
La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Province of Benguet, thru its PBAC, shall accept sealed bids not later than 2:00 PM on January 03, 2002 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Conference Room, from contractors who were qualified by the Provincial PBAC and classified as "medium" by the Inter-agency Commitee and who have SUBMITTED THEIR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS DULY VALIDATED BY THE PROVINCIAL PBAC for the prosecution of the following infrastructure projects:

PROJECT TITLE:

1. Rehabilitation of Bokig — Betao Farm to Market Road at Pasdong, Atok, Benguet, AAE P7,638,542.38
2. Rehabilitation of Junction Amgaleygey — Saclalan Farm to Market Road at Amgaleygey, Buguias, Benguet. AAE P5,606,336.41
3. Rehabilitation of Mongio — Bayabas Farm to Market Road at Bayabas, Sablan, Benguet. AAE P9,413,497.63

Cost of Bid forms/project: P500

Bidder's compliance with filing schedule is enjoined:

1. Filing of letter of intent with PBAC Secretariat .... December 17-19, 2001
2. Issuance of bid forms, plans and specs .... December 17-20, 2001
3. Pre-bid conference .... December 20, 2001
4. Submission of bids at Provincial Governor's Office .... January 3, 2002 (8:00AM-2:00PM)
5. Opening of Bids .... January 3, 2002 (2:00 PM)

Only the licensee with approved letter of intent by the PBAC chairman will be issued bid forms and shall personally sign the registry at the registry at the time of filing. SPAs will not be honored.

The Provincial Government of Benguet, thru its PBAC, reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids, waive any defects contained therein and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid/s, as evaluated, is most advantageous to the government.

Publications: November 25, 2001, December 2 & 9, 2001

(Sgd.) **RAUL M. MOLINTAS**
Provincial Governor &
PBAC Chairman

(PDI -- Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2001)

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We will miss you, Sr. Maria (Juliaan) Mullie, icm

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Creator in heaven."

In the afternoon of 26 November 2001, Sr. Juliaan Mullie, icm, has peacefully reunited with the Creator.

She has fulfilled a vision of facilitating the self-empowerment of young working women and men through the organization she founded—Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development, Inc. (SAFRUDI). She has made them realize the dignity of the worker and of work. She has nurtured many with firmness and gentleness, sowing the seeds of Christian love in the service of young men and women. Now, SAFRUDI is involved with being a marketing arm for producers in the provinces involved with handicrafts, with organic farming, with health and nutrition community projects.

To SAFRUDI, where she gave her best for many years, after having been Adviser to the Philippine-based International Young Christian Workers (YCW) movement.

Sr. Juliaan is more than a memory; she is a legacy.
She is more than strength; she is a pillar
She is more than light; she is a guide
She is more than a founder; she is a mother to us all.

Her body lies in state in Heverlee, Belgium with her congregation. Please join us in celebrating the life of our beloved Founder Sr. Juliaan Mullie, icm, on 11 December 2001 at 10:30 a.m. at the SAFRUDI Compound at 2594 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

The Juliaan Mullie Foundation, Inc. will very much appreciate any contribution that will help to pursue its mission.

ABELARDO "BELING" MUYCO APORTADERA SR.

Former Mayor, Dingle, Iloilo
Former City Fiscal
& Board Member, Davao City
Retired RTC Judge, Cotabato City
Senior Partner, Aportadera Law Office

Peacefully joined his Creator
on November 26, 2001 at the age of 95.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife **Lourdes**; children **Marilou, Billy** & **Tita Arancel, Albert** & **Arleen San Jose, Luchie, Alex** and **Lisa**; grandchildren **Arabelle, Angelo, Allen, Alexei, Angieleen, Aisobelle** and **Arnelli**; in-laws, nephews & nieces.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment will be at Davao Memorial Park on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Assumption Church.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of

Col. Conrado L. Banal Jr.

who passed away on Oct. 24, 2001

wish to thank all of our relatives and friends for their comforting presence and prayers during our moment of grief.

PILAR ASISTIO ARRIETA VDA. AVEDILLO

May 5, 1918 - November 30, 2001
(Wife of the late **ABELARDO S. AVEDILLO**)

Her beloved children **BOBBY & TITA, LUDY & SANTI**, her beloved grandchildren **THERESE & MIKE, MAE & JONNEL, JOSEPH & ALTA, RHEEN, ARTHUR** and **ABEGAIL** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, St. Elizabeth Chapel.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 5, 2001, 10:00 A.M. at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite City.

ENGR. DAVID PAZ CRUZ, SR.

Joined his Creator and wife **FELIZA JAVIER CRUZ** on November 30, 2001 at the age of 86.

CHILDREN	GRANDCHILDREN
Lynda & Danny Reyes	Alvin & Lianne
David, Jr. & Bess Rivera	Derrick David III, Michal & Cromwell
Rey & Marivic Soriano	Mark, Coleen, Jamee & Igan
Marie & Gene Fajardo	Ronald, Elaine, Jay & Vanessa
Cynthia & Darrell Conine	Shaun, Troy & Cheryl
Dulce & Martin Cepeda	Candice
Francis & Gina Descotido	Alexis & Gabby
Rodel	

We, his brother, sister and friends and those whose paths have crossed his and have been touched by the purity of his heart and intentions, request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul... that he may finally reap the reward he truly deserves in the embrace of the Eternal Light.

His remains will be at the **White Plains Subdivision Chapel, Nathan Road, Quezon City on Sunday Evening, December 2, 2001 until Wednesday dawn, December 5, 2001.**

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Donato "Danny" Avelino Pedraza

April 7, 1954 - October 24, 2001

&

Arch. Ramon "Monching" Cuna Pedraza

January 31, 1920 - November 3, 2001

convey our sincerest thanks to relatives and friends here and abroad who condoled with us in countless ways in the hour of our bereavement.

God bless you all.

"We never lose those we give back to God."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Singapore Airlines Getaway Specials promotes Manila

SINGAPORE Airlines recently launched a series of bargain leisure packages that are expected to help boost tourist traffic worldwide. The packages, called "Singapore Airlines Getaway Specials" include holiday stays in Bali, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Hong Kong, Langkawi, Manila, Perth, and Penang.

"The key motivation behind the development of the packages is to boost long haul stopover visitor traffic through Singapore," said Huang Cheng Eng, SIA executive vice president for marketing and the regions. "Despite the difficult economic conditions worldwide, we believe there is still a continuing demand for leisure travel, and these packages offer good value for money."

The leisure packages include airfare, hotel accommodation, and return transfers between airport and hotel. Travelers are provided with budget-friendly options through a list of hotels, most of which offer customers additional free nights' accommodation for a minimum number of consecutive nights of stay.

Tourists can combine the "Getaway Specials" with SIA's current offer the "Singapore Stopover Splendour". This involves a night's accommodation at selected Singapore hotels with rates that start from only $1, return transfers to and from Singapore Changi Airport, unlimited use of special hop-on trolley bus, and discounts to Singapore's popular tourist attractions.

Travelers can avail themselves of the "Getaway Specials" until March 31, 2002.

TOSHIBA'S NEW COMPUTER PRODUCTS

Tricom Dynamics Inc., exclusive distributor of Toshiba Notebook Computers in the Philippines, recently launched Toshiba's new products at Vincent's Bar and Restaurant. Shown presenting the new PC lines are executives from Singapore and the Philippines (from left) Bienvenido Rockwell, president and CEO, Charisms Inc.; Roger Salvante, senior manager, PC business unit, Tricom Dynamics, Inc.; Ng Choon Huat, regional marketing manager, computer systems division, Toshiba Singapore Pte. Ltd. and Noriyuki Hayashi, business planning manager, computer systems division, Toshiba Singapore Pte. Ltd. Tricom Dynamics is located at Metro Building, 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, with telephone number 890-6525.

BITS & Clips

Marketing meet slated

MANSMITH and Fielders Inc., the industry leader in marketing and sales training, is set to hold the last run of its most popular seminar, the 42nd Marketing Strategy and Plans, on Dec. 4 to 6 at the Galleria Suites. Handling the seminar-workshop is best-selling Filipino marketing author and guru Agora awardee Josiah Go. Go will discuss key marketing issues such as spotting business opportunities, establishing customer loyalty, and sustaining competitive advantages. The seminar will present a practical approach to increasing sales, market shares, and profit—the primary concern of every entrepreneur, marketing or brand manager and sales manager. For inquiries, call 723-6671, 416-4662 or e-mail info@mansmith.net.

New Pag-Ibig loan guidelines discussed

THE IMPLEMENTATION of the newly revised Pag-Ibig housing loan guidelines, featuring reduced interest rates, liberal loan entitlements, and lower fees, will be taken up during the joint workshop-seminar of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) on Dec. 5, Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom C of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Key officials of the Pag-Ibig Fund will attend the workshop to assure the clear, uniform interpretation and application of the new housing loan rules by addressing operational issues that may be raised during the forum. The "Consolidated Guidelines of the Pag-Ibig Housing Loan Program" contained in HDMF Circular 189 issued in November, aims to boost loan availment by the formal housing borrowers to meet President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to assist some 100,000 formal housing beneficiaries up to June 30, 2002. Reservations to the workshop must be confirmed at 899-8275, telefax 890-0323, and 890-7032, or e-mail shda@mozcom.com.

Seminar on customer satisfaction

THE PRODUCTIVITY and Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines (PDC-DAP) invites all key officers, frontline staff, and customer service officers of national and local government agencies to its seminar on Managing Customer Satisfaction for Public Service Excellence from. Dec. 6 to 7 at Workshop Room 1, second floor of the DAP Conference Center, Pasig City. The seminar aims to develop competencies of participants to manage customer satisfaction in the delivery of public services. Specifically, it will enable participants to apply appropriate approaches in building relationships with customers, handling complaints, and bridging service quality gaps. For reservations, call 631-2156 or 631-0921 to 30 local 135. Look for Jerico Velasco.

USTGSAA grand alumni homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Graduate School Alumni Association (USTGSAA) announces the Grand Alumni Homecoming and General Elections on Dec. 6 at the Quezon City Sports Club. The annual event opens at 6 p.m. and will be capped by the traditional awards ceremony where the outstanding alumni who have excelled in their professional fields of endeavor will be honored. For tickets and information, call Dr. Mercedes M. Leuterio, president of the USTGSAA at the UST Graduate School, España, Manila.

WEB AWARD FOR ABOITIZ GROUP PORTAL

The Aboitiz Group's convergence portal, aboitiz.com, recently bagged the Best Corporate Website Award at the 1st Cebu Web Awards. Aboitiz vice president for corporate communications Jojoff Escobal (fourth from left) received the award from Chito Ortiz (second from right), Cebu Chamber of Commerce representative and president of Cyberinnovations. The 1st Cebu Web Awards is a project of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with CyberPromdi Community Association Inc. and the Internet Café Association of Cebu. It was one of the highlights of the recent Information and Communication Technology Show, a major event to mark Cebu Business Month. With Escobal and Ortiz are (from left) Jimmy Henson (Henson Design), Joepe Torregosa (technical director, Globalmind), Evelyn Paul (Aboitiz Corporate Communications Associate), Francis Cabanban (Aboitiz computer services division), Delia Maderazo, (head Aboitiz computer services division), Jake Angulo, (president, Globalmind) and Michael Eco (CEO, Globalmind).

ABMC YOUNGBLOODS

ABMC's young blood fuels ABS's bid for a more dominant position in the broadcast industry. Composed of seasoned veterans and dynamic young practitioners from diverse backgrounds, ABMC is led by Dennis M. Cabalfin (center), president and CEO, Oscar A. Baldo, director for marketing (left) and Nathaniel Miguel, director for prize acquisitions and executive assistant to the president. Representing ABMCs dynamic and highly creative brand management group are (back, from left) Cong Capati and Jo Tiongson. Cake Leander, sales group head, represents the proactive and vibrant sales team.

Boom na Boom opens 2001 season

CHRISTMAS is definitely just around the corner as Boom na Boom carnival, the country's longest-running and most popular Yuletide attraction, opens its gates anew for its 2001-2002 season.

This year's Boom na Boom will celebrate the indomitable Filipino Christmas spirit as the carnival features old Christmas traditions for its theme. Colorful parades, marching bands, native food festivals and bargain shopping activities will all be part of this year's Boom na Boom.

And, as always since the carnival first opened in 1989, there will be lots of rides for children and adults, walk-through attractions and horror houses, game booths, trade and market places, food and refreshment kiosks and non-stop entertainment features.

Special events for the 2001 season include Hataw Sayaw, the annual dance competition that showcases the youth's talents in dancing and choregraphy. The contest is open to students 7-18 years old.

Another annual talent contest is Himigsikan, a singing competition for students 7-18 years old. The last Himigsikan drew contestants from at least 80 private and public schools from Metro Manila.

Tsikiting Galing, a new contest for kids 5 to 12 years old, will likewise debut at Boom na Boom this year. Slated every Sunday, celebrity guests will join the children as they showcase their talents in dancing, music and acting.

Weekends at Boom na Boom will also feature the country's top names in entertainment and show business Gimik Nights with free live bands and concerts.

The carnival will not be complete without magic shows, dragon dance exhibitions, ati-atihan dancers, and circus shows.

For more details about Boom na Boom, call the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. at 832-5422.

Ford recognizes best auto journalists

THE SEARCH for the best in Philippine automotive journalism will draw to a close on Dec. 6 when the Ford Motor Company Philippines announces the winners of the 1st Henry Ford Awards at the Filipinas Heritage Library Courtyard.

Maricar Parco, Ford assistant vice president for public affairs, revealed that the deadline for the submission of entries has ended and the stage has been set for the screening of the articles, photos and TV features.

"We were overwhelmed by the number of entries as well as the quality of these entries. It is going to be a very difficult job for the judges to select which will be feted during the 1st Henry Ford Awards night," Parco.

Seven awards will be given out during the awarding ceremony: Best Auto Innovation/Auto Event Story; Best Auto Industry Story; Best Published Photograph for Newspaper; Best Published Photograph for Magazine; Best Online Feature; and Best Automotive Television Feature and the Best Ford Feature Story. Except for the last category, all articles and TV features are not limited to coverage of Ford. Cash prizes over P100,000 await the winners.

In charge of the unenviable task of screening the entries are Jake Maderazo, managing director of the ABS-CBN News Channel; Vicente Mills, president of the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc.; Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club; and Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Terry Emrick, Ford Motor Co. Phils. president, joins the board of judges in selecting the best Ford feature story.

The Henry Ford awards is aimed at encouraging quality and substantive reporting about the country's automotive industry. The awards program is part of the commitment of Ford Motor Co. Phils. to give due recognition to journalists who have supported the automotive industry by providing consumers with accurate news reports and information.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

IRINEO ESTRAELA CUSTODIO

San Esteban, Ilocos Sur

April 17, 1913 — November 24, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 24, 2001
in San Francisco, U.S.A. at the age of 88.

Irineo was born on April 17, 1913 in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur. He attended Far Eastern University in Manila where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He was a Recruiting Manager at the Hawaiian Planters Association from 1942 to 1960. He was a Supply Officer at the Department of Local Government until 1982 when he migrated to the USA. He also worked as a bookkeeper for Rudy Reyes Labor Contractor in Fresno, California.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **MRS. ANGELITA VILORIA CUSTODIO**; his children **Letty** and **Renato**, **Ben** and **Tessie**, **Heidi** and **Noli**, **Boy** and **Julie**, **Vivian** and **Jack**, **Erling** and **Pong**, **Lito**, **Arnold**, **Mike** and **Aimee**; his grandchildren **Gwen**, **Norman**, **Stanley**, **Jennifer**, **Brian**, **Ron**, **Lindsay**, **Vernon**, **Leah**, **Sharon**, **Neil**, **Marjorie**, **Kenneth**, **Angelique**, **Aiza**, **Gianne**, **Ninay**, **Jairus**, and **Oye**; and his great-grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Interment will be on Monday, December 3, 2001 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Gen. 1:3

NOLET B. CHUTUAPE SR.

of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur and Quezon City

Died November 28, 2001 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Irene**; children **Nolet Jr.**, **Lucy** and **Antonio Jimenez**, **Philip**, **Hilton** (†), and **Joseph** request your prayers for his eternal repose.

La Funeraria Paz Chapel B-6, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment tentatively set on December 5, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the Mass. Please call/text 0917-3794108 or 414-3327 for confirmation.

"I shall be happy forever,
Lord, when I see Your glory in Heaven."
St. Thomas Aquinas

In memoriam

Clotilde del Fierro-de la Vega

Born to eternal life on 2 December 1999

We will always remember you Mommy.

Our deepest gratitude also to friends, relatives and loved ones who continue praying for her eternal repose.

"Who is it that loves me
and will love me forever with an affection
which no chance, no misery, no crime of mine
can do away? It is you, mother."
■ *THOMAS CARLYLE (1795-1881)*
from a letter to his mother

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen"

IN LOVING MEMORY

of

FELIZA RUBIO ALVAREZ

On the 4th Anniversary of her Passage to Eternal Life

Holy Masses will be offered for her today at the following Churches:

St. Joseph The Worker Parish, *Palanan, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
Holy Family Parish, *Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, *San Antonio Vill., Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter & Paul Parish, *Poblacion, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
St. Andrew The Apostle Parish, *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
San Agustin Chapel, *Dasmariñas Vill., Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, *Congressional Vill., Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
San Ildefonso Parish, *Pio del Pilar, Makati City*	6:30 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, *Magallanes Vill., Makati City*	7:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Chapel, *JEM 9, Tandang Sora, Quezon City*	8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, *Mindanao Ave. Ext., Quezon City*	10:00 a.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Teachers Vill., Quezon City*	11:00 a.m.
St. Jude Parish, *Poro, San Fernando City, La Union*	5:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace Parish, *Grace Park, Caloocan City*	5:45 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *U.P. Diliman Campus, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
Lord of Divine Mercy Parish, *Sikatuna Vill., Quezon City*	6:30 p.m.
St. William Cathedral, *San Fernando City, La Union*	6:30 p.m.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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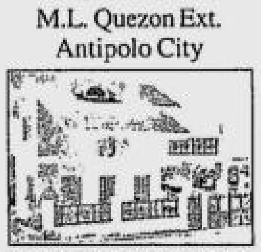

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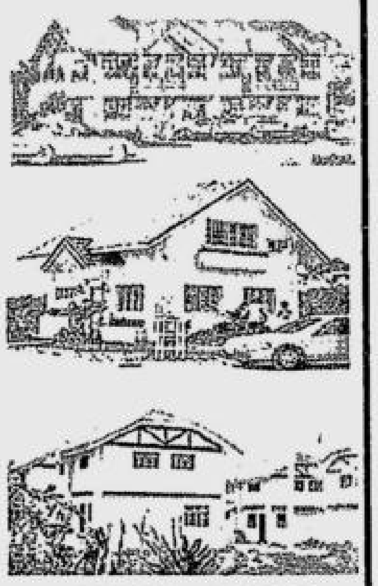

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(PDI-Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2001)

Notice is given that Stock Certificates issued to **Conrado Sanchez, Jr.** covering Centro Escolar University shares described below have been lost.

Stock Certificate No.	Issued On	No. of Shares
00002416	19 October 1984	18,000
00002417	19 October 1984	12,200
00004373	31 August 1988	15,100
00005405	15 March 1994	29,400
00006437	12 June 1995	149,400
00007727	05 February 1998	336,100
Total		560,200

If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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ALFIERO D. DELOS SANTOS JR. is no longer connected with **COMGLASCO CORPORATION** effective September 21, 2001.

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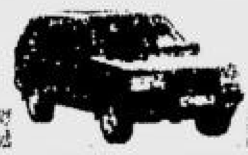

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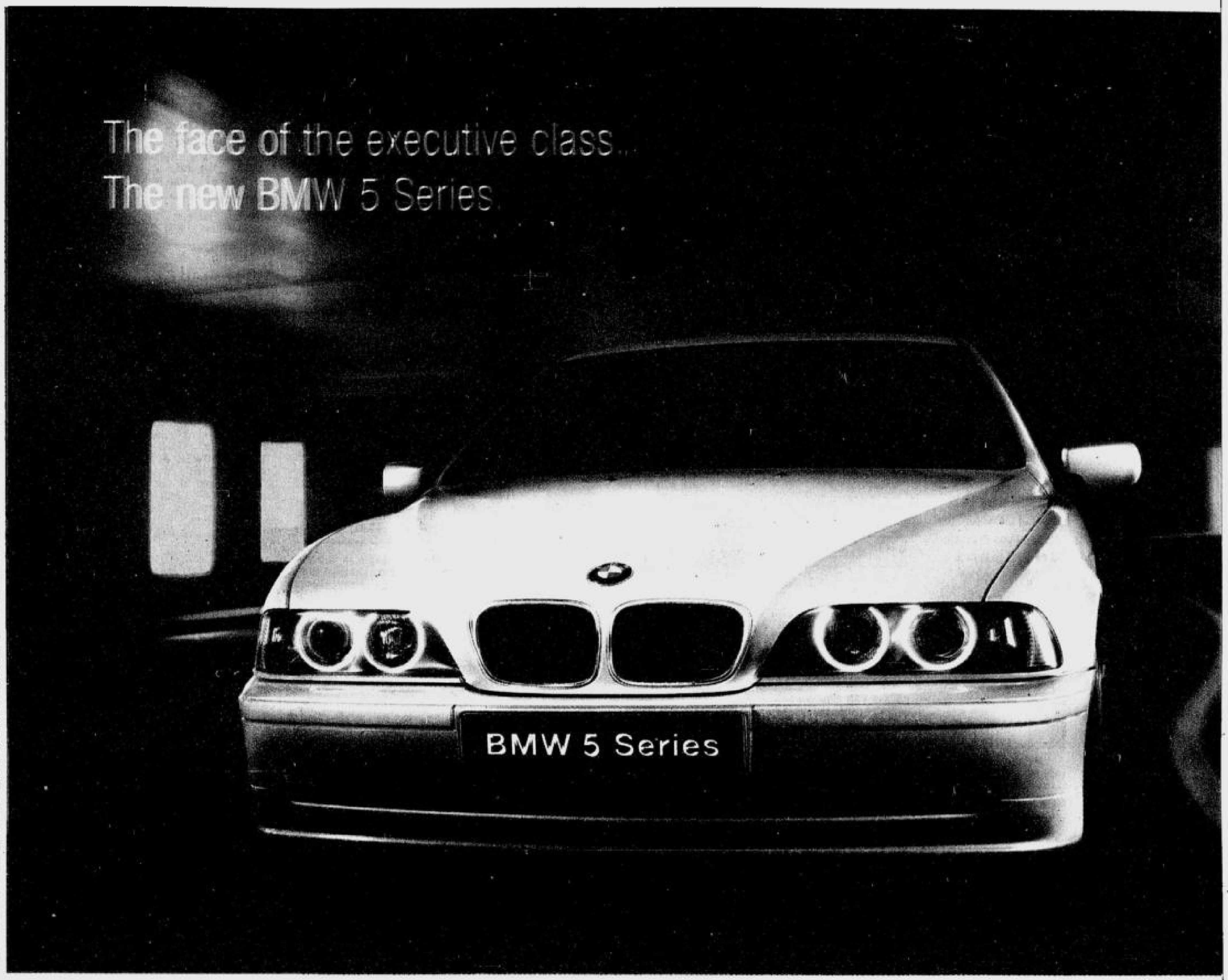

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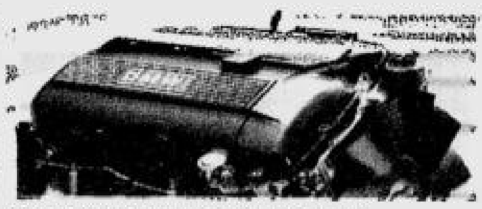
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* The BMW 5 has been voted "Chefauto 2001" by Germany's magazine Impulse, 09/01. ** The BMW 5 Series touring has been voted "Company car of the year" by Germany's magazine Firmenauto in the category of "Premium Class Kombis", 07/01.

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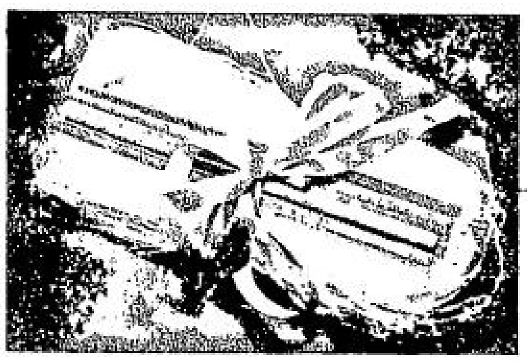

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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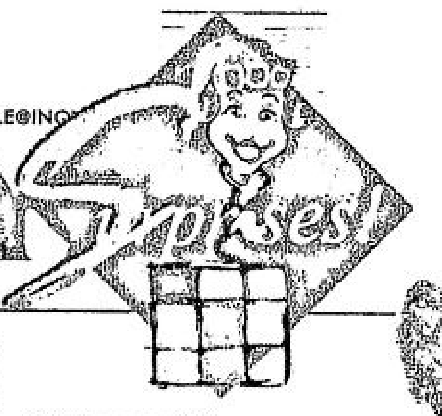
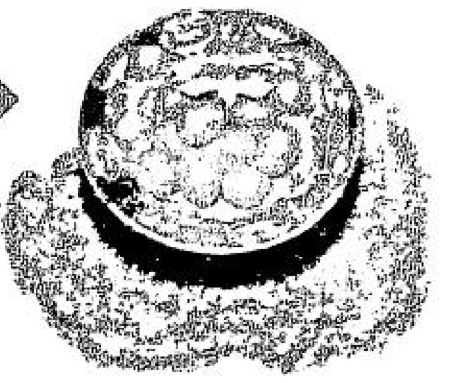
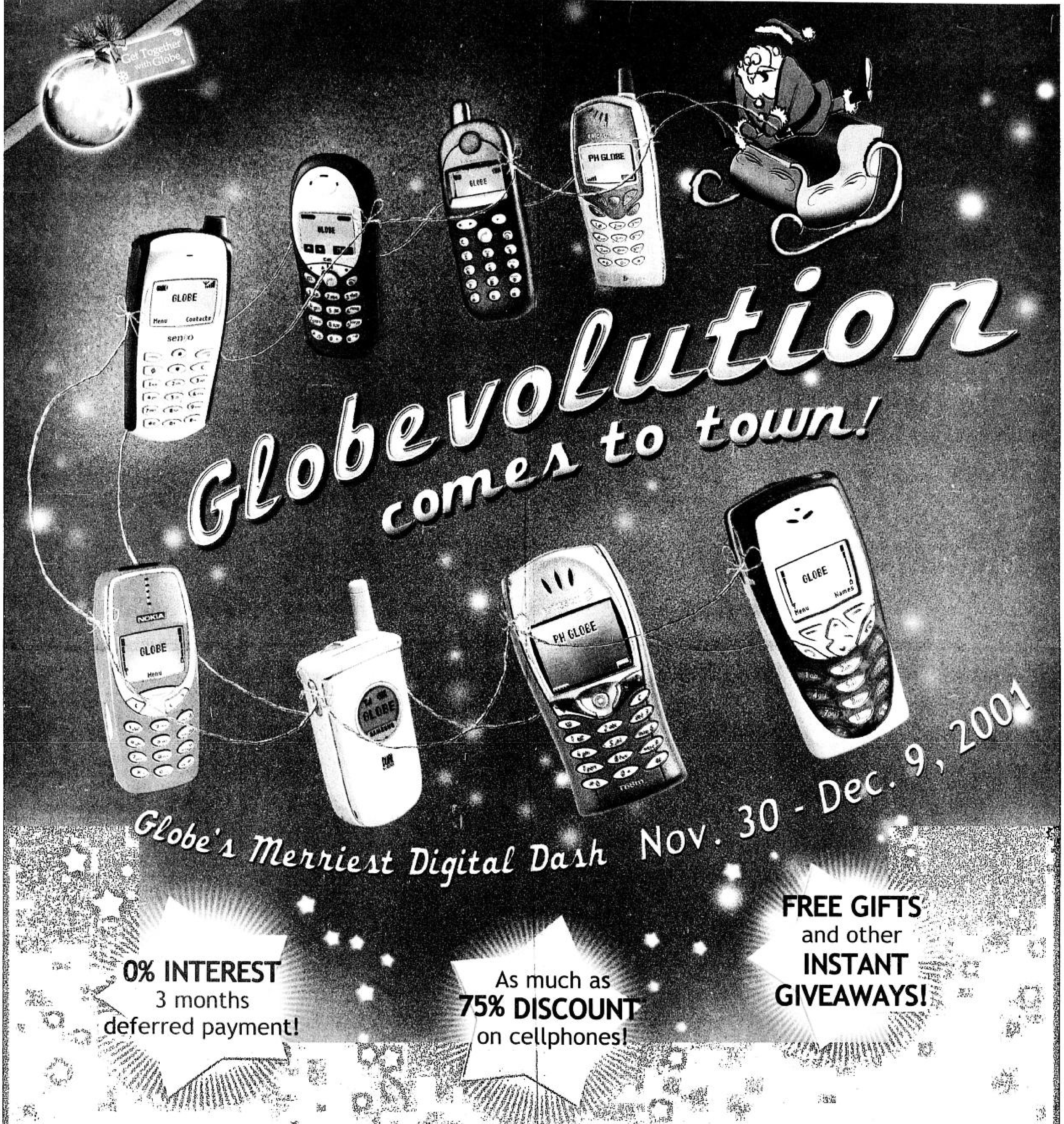




And that's a wrap!

(Story on page C8)



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Dec. 13 is feast of patroness of good eyesight

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

LOS Angeles-based Vidal Aguas e-mailed me to say that devotees of St. Lucy whose eyesight have been restored and eye problems cured should dance during the procession in her honor as thanksgiving. The feast of St. Lucy falls on Dec. 13 and, in the town of Sasmuan, Pampanga, this practice is observed.

The e-mail reached me several days after my friends and I visited the Chapel of St. Lucy in Calumpit, Bulacan. Ging Ong kindly brought her car for Susan Laureola, Pol Capistrano, Marie Yatco and myself to ride in.

Driver Dong expertly navigated the roads in search of the chapel, which we found in Barangay Sta. Lucia. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Parish of St. Joseph with Fr. Rodel Cristobal as parish priest.

Jaime Francisco looked for the girl MaryAnn who had the key to the chapel. She brought Nana Leoncia Tolentino who takes care of it. Nana Leoncia told us that miracles have happened to people who seek help for better eyesight. They come back on the saint's feast day to say "thank you."

According to Nana Leoncia, the chapel becomes so full that it would be difficult to drop even a pin. On Sundays, Masses are said at 8:30 a.m., while on Saturdays, Masses are celebrated at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.

Masses on the saint's feast day start at 5:30 a.m. and continue every hour until 9 a.m.

St. Lucy, the patroness of good eyesight, has been portrayed by artists as holding a plate with eyes on it. The virgin-martyr was beheaded by her pagan captors when she refused to give up her faith.

Barangay Sta. Lucia in Calumpit has been dedicated to the saint since 1572. The chapel then was made of *nipa* and bamboo. It was only improved around 1972 when leaders of the community, headed by Dr. Eladio Cruz, Fiscal Alfonso Francisco, lawyer Jose Francisco and Mary Ann Candelaria, decided to build a bigger chapel made of concrete. The new structure was inaugurated in June 1973 and has been a pilgrimage site since.

Before we left, Nana Leoncia urged us to return on the saint's feast day. Susan and I are going back. I need to ask St. Lucy's help for better eyesight.

Malolos Cathedral is 25

After Calumpit, we drove to Malolos where we found out that the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is going to mark its 25th year as a cathedral Dec. 7 and 8. The theme of the fiesta is "Mga Wika ni Maria (The Words of Mary)." Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona leads the celebration.

Miraculous St. Michael

We also visited the St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Marilao, Bulacan. Local folk talk about the miracles wrought by God through the intercession of St. Michael. How the altar and church are going to look in May 2002 after the renovation is now the concern of Fr. Avelino Santos, parish priest, and the executive committee in-charge headed by project chairs Edna Ramos and Ogie Villamar.

St. Michael devotees who wish to help can write Fr. Avelino Santos, St. Michael Parish, Marilao, Bulacan.

Divine Mercy Church

Later in the afternoon, we went to Santa Rosa, also in Marilao, to visit the Church of the Divine Mercy. This meant that after praying to Mama Mary and the saints, we ended up praying to Jesus Himself in this famous shrine which, according to Fr. Vic Robles, is always full of people who want to be healed.

Behind—and set lower than—the church are the 14 Stations of the Cross and several buildings where retreats are held. The shrine is a place for quiet meditation.

Our Lady of Soledad

THE COFRADIA de la Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga brought a replica image of Our Lady to the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Orani, Bataan on Nov. 30. The image was enthroned in a side altar. Fr. Romy Banaban, parish priest, welcomed the Virgin. Tony Nazareno headed the delegation.

'Soledad' exhibit in Binakayan

DIFFERENT images of Our Lady of Soledad, the patroness of Cavite, are on exhibit at the Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite until Dec. 9. Fr. Vir Mendoza is the parish priest.

New bishop for Imus

HOW to receive at least 6,000 guests to the consecration of Fr. Chito Tagle as new bishop of Imus at 9 a.m., Dec. 12 is now being discussed by the committee in-charge of the preparations. Cardinal Sin will consecrate Father Chito, 44, while Cardinal Vidal will give the homily.

Besides the Papal Nuncio, Antonio Franco, Cardinal Ratzinger might come from Rome. Cardinals from Taiwan and Vietnam might also arrive. Priests who studied at the Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol in Bicol and 60 priests from Batangas headed by Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales might also attend.

Called the "theologian of the Pope" for being a member of the International Theological Commission, Father Chito is also the parish priest of Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral.

More on his ordination in a future column. The well-loved priest is described as "very holy, self-effacing, caring, loving, just in dealing with people, has a good sense of humor and very much respected and admired by his fellow priests." His motto is "*Dominus est*" or "It is the Lord."

Bishop Yalung in Antipolo

BISHOP Tom Yalung will be consecrated as bishop of Antipolo tomorrow (Dec. 3). Msgr. Clem Ignacio will replace him as rector of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Dao, Makati.

New priests

ARCHBISHOP Diosdado Talamayan ordained recently three deacons as new priests in Cagayan Valley. Rev. Ramiro Geronio in the Basilica of Our Lady of Piat in Piat, Rev. Christopher Coballes in the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Tuguegarao, and Rev. Consino Arteta in Lal-lo, Cagayan. A reminder: Our Lady of Piat will be at Malate Church until Dec. 9 after which she will be flown back to Tuguegarao.

Our Lady of Manaoag

THE PILGRIM image of Our Lady of Manaog will be at the Edsa Shrine from 7:30 a.m. Dec. 11 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 15. She goes home to Manaog on Dec. 16.

'Orogmahan' at The Fort

ALUMNI of the Ateneo de Naga University get together for "Orogmahan" at The Fort 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 8. Activities will include a Thanksgiving Mass, lunch, *merienda*, games for adults and kids. Bring your classmates and get a chance to win P3,000.

Call Bong Rodriguez at 0917) 334-8562 or Tony Hing at 725-6762 or (0917) 338-1533.

Happy anniversary, PDI

THE INQUIRER was only 2 years old when I began writing this column in 1987. She will be 16 on Dec. 9 and my column will be 14 years old on Dec. 18.

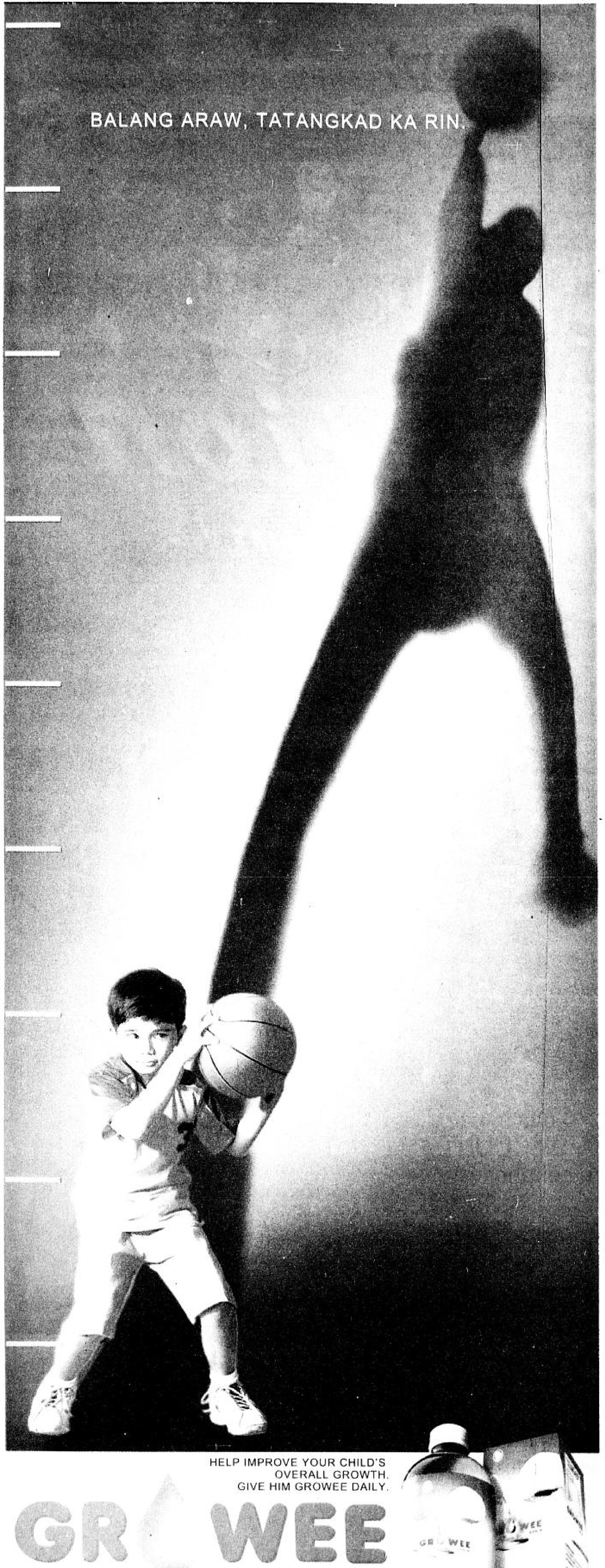
Happy anniversary to PDI. God bless you for the good work.

Papal awardees induction

THE BOARD of trustees of the Philippine Association of Papal Awardees will be inducted at 10:30 a.m. today, Dec. 2, by Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel. Trustees are Dr. Elpidio Valencia, president; former BIR Commissioner Jose U. Ong, vice president; Tony Adriano, secretary; Rosario Villar, treasurer; and Manuel Luis Gonzales, member.

'Peñafrancia' miracles

THE MIRACLES that Our Lady of Peñafrancia interceded for will be collated in a book (Volume II) in time for the September 2002 fiesta. Those with miracles to share can send them to me at PDI, P.O. Box 2050, Manila; fax 897-4793 or e-mail josiedpurely @yahoo.com or call Carmen Bernas at 823-7837.


BALANG ARAW, TATANGKAD KA RIN.
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GROWEE
YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH VITAMINS
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Domex THICK

One Christmas guest you can do without...

Here's a way to make sure that one thing you *don't* worry about this Christmas is unexpected after-effects from your Christmas Dinner! Experts say a new and balanced approach to hygiene in the home could help you avoid nasty bugs like *Salmonella* that cause the illnesses we commonly know as food poisoning. Following their advice could help you and your family avoid being among those who get intestinal diseases every year.

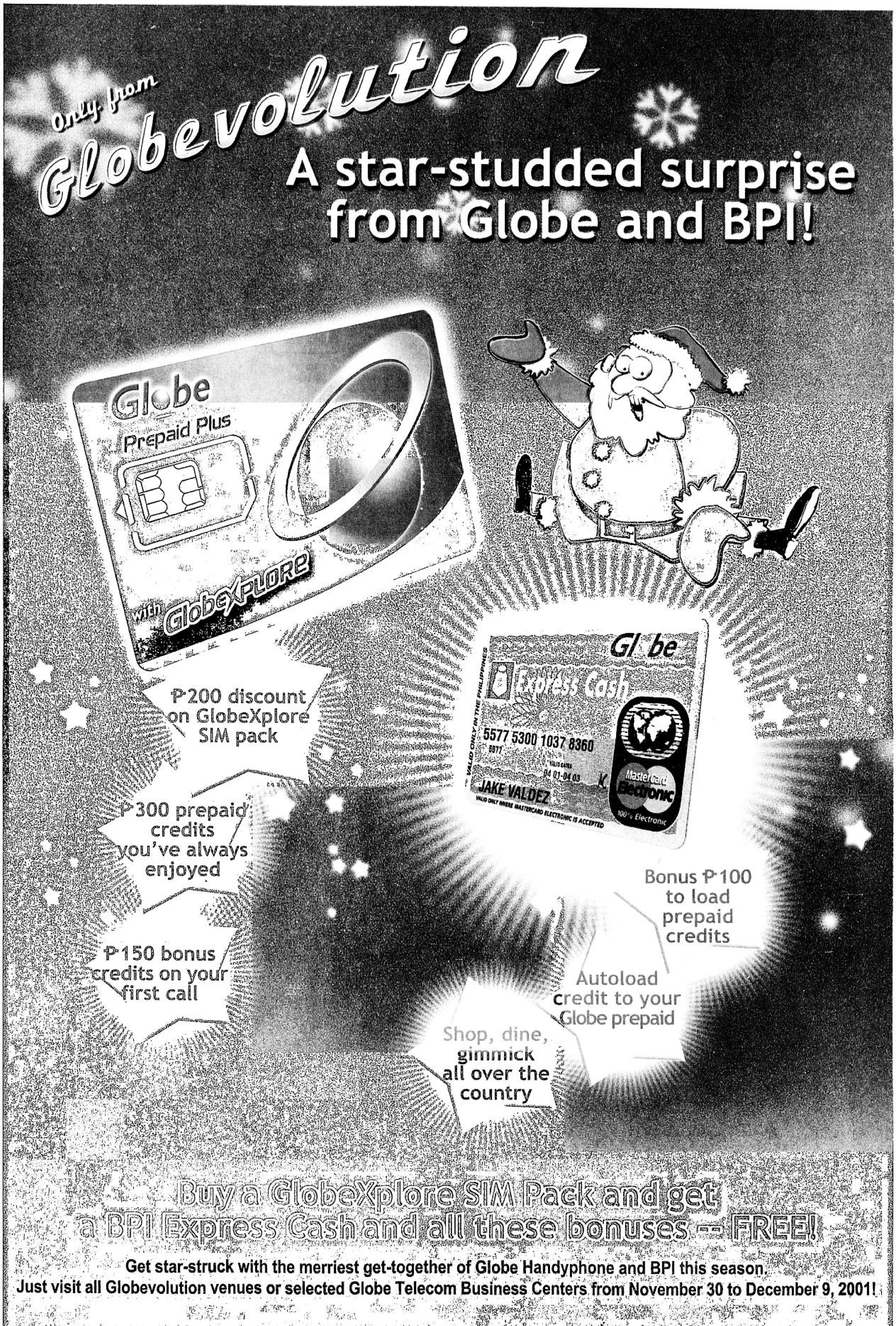
The season of goodwill can often bring its own stresses and strains, but making sure your home is safe from the bacteria and viruses that cause intestinal problems doesn't have to be one of them! It's easy to do, as long as you go about it in the right way. 'Targeted home hygiene' is a sensible and practical approach to cleaning. Instead of going overboard and surrounding yourself with antibacterials everywhere, targeted home hygiene is about keeping the *right places* really hygienically clean at the *times* that matter.

It makes sense! There are certain 'hotspot' places and times in the home that make it more likely for harmful germs like *Salmonella* to reach a potential victim and make them ill. For example, on your hands or the work surfaces and chopping boards in the kitchen, and even the tap and door handles, when you're preparing food. Focus your extra cleaning efforts on these places at the high-risk times. It's particularly relevant at Christmas – a busy time when catering for more people means the risks of intestinal problems may be even greater, especially when you consider that up to 80% of cases start in the home.

At Christmas, when the kitchen's full of willing helpers, and the house is full of potential victims, it's extra important to see to the basics of food hygiene – cooking and storing food properly. Paying extra attention to food preparation and handling, keeping cooked and raw foods apart, and using effective hygiene products on areas of food preparation at the high-risk times can make a difference. Also, cooking food properly and storing it in the right way – preferably in the refrigerator – combined with good hygiene before, **during** and after food handling and preparation, are vital if we are to avoid problems.

So, take the experts' advice: targeted home hygiene can help you have a happy and healthy Christmas, without any unwanted guests at your dinner table!

ADVT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SEE FLYERS FOR MORE DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4048 series of 2001

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No reason to feel guilty

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Is it normal to feel deep remorse for not visiting my parents' tombs last All Saints' Day? I could, of course, afford the plane fare, but I decided to save it for future expenses. How will I get over my guilt? I can't sleep thinking about it, but I'm sure it is not anything I should go to confession for. Thank you for your advice.

P.M.L.

Physical presence is not a must, so keep calm. What is more important is praying for the repose of their souls, so that they can rest in peace and go to heaven.

The best thing you can do is to continue having Masses said for their souls. Mass cards for the departed—for one year or perpetual—for example, are available at the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate. Their telephones: 364-5603 or 364-8060; address: St. Eugene de Mazenod Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City. Knowing that Masses are being said for them will ease your mind.

I may as well tell you that with Christmas just around the corner, they have beautiful, very affordable, Christmas Mass cards, which you can give to your friends.

But to go back to the memory of your parents, and everyone who has been called to the great beyond, blessings will come to you if you join or support the "Player Warriors of the Holy Souls" under the Monfort Foundation, a nonstock, nonprofit organization. The foundation also has interesting items available, like the pamphlet "How to Avoid Purgatory," green scapulars of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and laminated copies of the stampita of the 8 o-clock prayer to St. Gertrude, said to help release souls from purgatory. The address is Guevent Building, 49 Libertad, Mandaluyong, MM, tel. 531-0356, or P.O. Box 220, Greenhills 1502, San Juan, M.M.

Would-be bride should delay wedding

AS I was reading Len's letter to you (who fell in love with a married man) yet another tiny remnant of the recent past fell from my heart. May I share with you what happened, which might indicate the future of Len's relationship.

When I went to Europe in 1999, I met a young lady who would become my girlfriend. We continued seeing each other even after we moved to different cities for our studies. We spent Christmas and New Year together.

In the third week of January after she visited me, I had a very disturbing dream. A week before her scheduled flight, I learned that she had slept with someone else. I realized what my dream was all about. I saw her off at the airport, but that was the loneliest day of my life. What I want to stress is that the damage has been done. No matter how much Len hides it or waits for the right time to confess her secret, I'm sure her fiancé has sensed it already. What Len did will have a strong karmic effect. This has already sent out ripples to all parties involved, including the family of her lover. The wounds she and her lover have caused need healing and this takes time.

I would suggest to Len to postpone the wedding date. She needs to ask herself some serious questions: is she ready for marriage? Is her fiancé really the man she wants to marry? Is she ready to forgive herself? Is she ready to be forgiven? Is she ready to love?

To finish my story, I spent the Lenten season of 2000 fasting and prayer. I realized that what I went through was a karmic effect of past wrongdoings. I am grateful to the all-merciful and loving God. He allowed me to go through a painful experience so I can run to Him for healing.

In the process I was able to forgive myself and my ex-girlfriend from whom I have not heard for a year now. God indeed healed my broken heart. Not only did I learn to forgive, I also learned to truly love. Months later I met a loving, caring and thoughtful woman, now my fiancée.

If Len will let give herself a chance, she will find peace of mind, her true self and her loving God. I am sure that with a pure heart, her wedding plans and the man of her choice will fall into place without difficulties.

JESS

Thank you for reaching out to Len. Many others, both men and women, will realize that it is always best never to do anything one will be sorry for in the future. There is also forgiveness, and forgetting in the end, but contrition is always a must.

For women who want to write to him: He is Romel G. Somo, address Almarai Co. Ltd., Al Rabiah Dairy Farm, P.O. Box 8524, Riyadh 11492, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He signed his letter Garter Boy because during the wedding of a friend, he caught the garter thrown by the bride.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Should she preserve loveless marriage?

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

Simply call me Mary. I work as an executive in an auditing firm where I met Abner. Actually, he was a brother of an officemate and close friend.

At first I found Abner very boring but he was so caring and that made me admire him. He phoned me several times before we finally met for dinner. Our first date was followed by another, and another, until we became inseparable. We were in love, deeply in love so we decided to have an unplanned wedding. I was three months on the family way then.

Abner was a loving husband and a caring partner at first. It was not until I gave birth that I noticed a drastic change in him. He was so jealous most of the time and was suspicious of every man he saw me with, even though he knows he's the first and only man in my life.

One day he asked me why I had an affair with another man. I was shocked, hurt and devastated considering that I just gave birth and was slowly recovering from postnatal depression. I just couldn't understand why he would make such an accusation.

Arguments followed after that and no matter how hard I explained and assured him that it was not true (although there was nothing to explain because even his family knows I couldn't possibly do it being his sister's friend for seven years) he just wouldn't listen. The only way for us to settle the matter was for me to agree that his accusations were true. God knows I wouldn't compromise the truth so I naturally did not accept the condition.

What was worse was he convinced me to sign an annulment paper because he believed I really had an affair with another man.

I was shocked to learn he had a history of personality disorder, which his family never told me. I told them I wanted to help Abner, but it's difficult because I was the object of his hatred. I asked my husband to see a doctor, and he obliged. But his first visit to a psychiatrist was also his last. He couldn't accept the fact that there was something wrong with him.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Recently I learned from a friend that Abner was regularly consulting a seer, asking if it was all right to get into another relationship. It made me think that this was just a scheme for him to finally get rid of me and evade his responsibility to our child.

I did all my best to save our marriage. I gave him enough time to change his mind and tried to win him back, but he's remained convinced of his allegations.

Considering the hurt, not to mention the injustice, done to me, I thought it was best that I considered annulment to give him the freedom he wanted though I was still confused. Am I making the right decision or, as his wife, should I give him another chance even if he has been telling me he doesn't love me anymore? Please help me. Thank you and God bless.

MARY

I know you are in a very difficult situation, torn between trying to keep your marriage vow and leaving your husband who apparently wants you and your child out of his life.

I have always believed in preserving marriages; in trying our best to compromise, sacrifice and take chances even if the odds seem to be against us. But there are times when our efforts become futile because our partners don't share our dreams. They start building their own dreams without us in the picture. How can we possibly find harmony in a relationship without the cooperation of the other person involved?

You have done your best to save this marriage. There are legal issues in an annulment. Your lawyer should make these impediments clear, if this is where you are headed. You were accused of infidelity but you know there was no one else in your life. All you wanted was to keep your marriage and leave your child with a legacy of a family. But a family is a team. If your husband doesn't want to be a part of it, then you will not be able to overcome the obstacles that will come your way. The ground for an annulment should not be the admission of something you did not do. It should be your husband's incapacity to keep a decent marriage.

You and your child deserve to be happy. Even your husband deserves to find his own happiness. You may not be able to find happiness together, but you will find it. What we do today affects the events of tomorrow. Let us make the most out of what we have now so we can always look back at yesterday without regret and see tomorrow with a vision of hope and happiness.

There's hope in prayer.
A message for world peace
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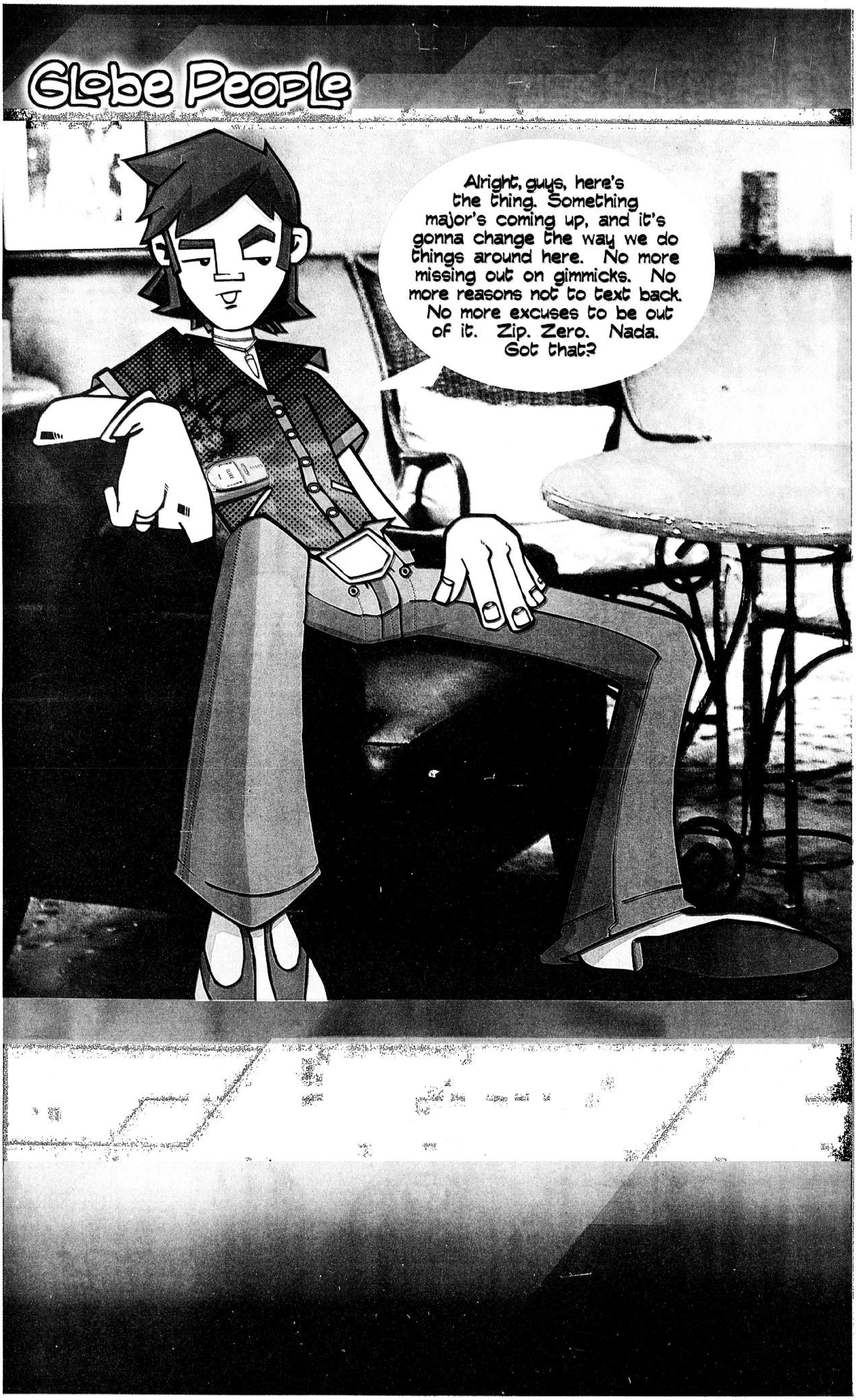
Globe People
Alright, guys, here's the thing. Something major's coming up, and it's gonna change the way we do things around here. No more missing out on gimmicks. No more reasons not to text back. No more excuses to be out of it. Zip. Zero. Nada. Got that?

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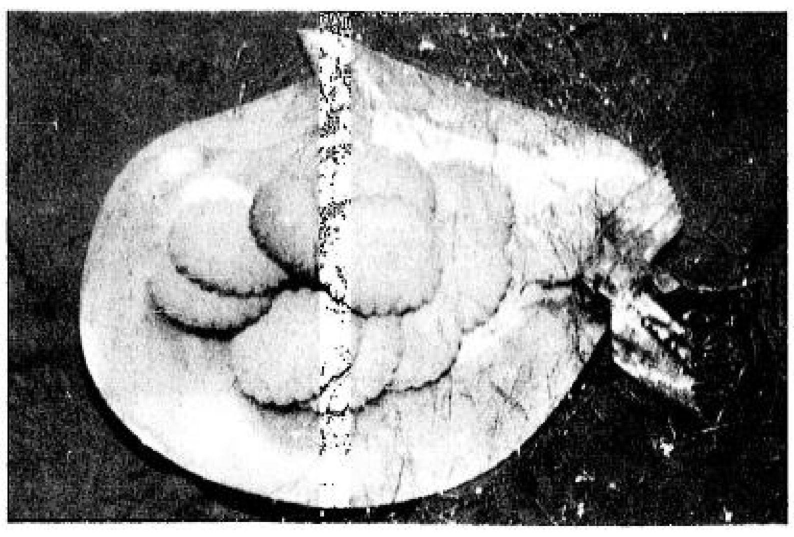
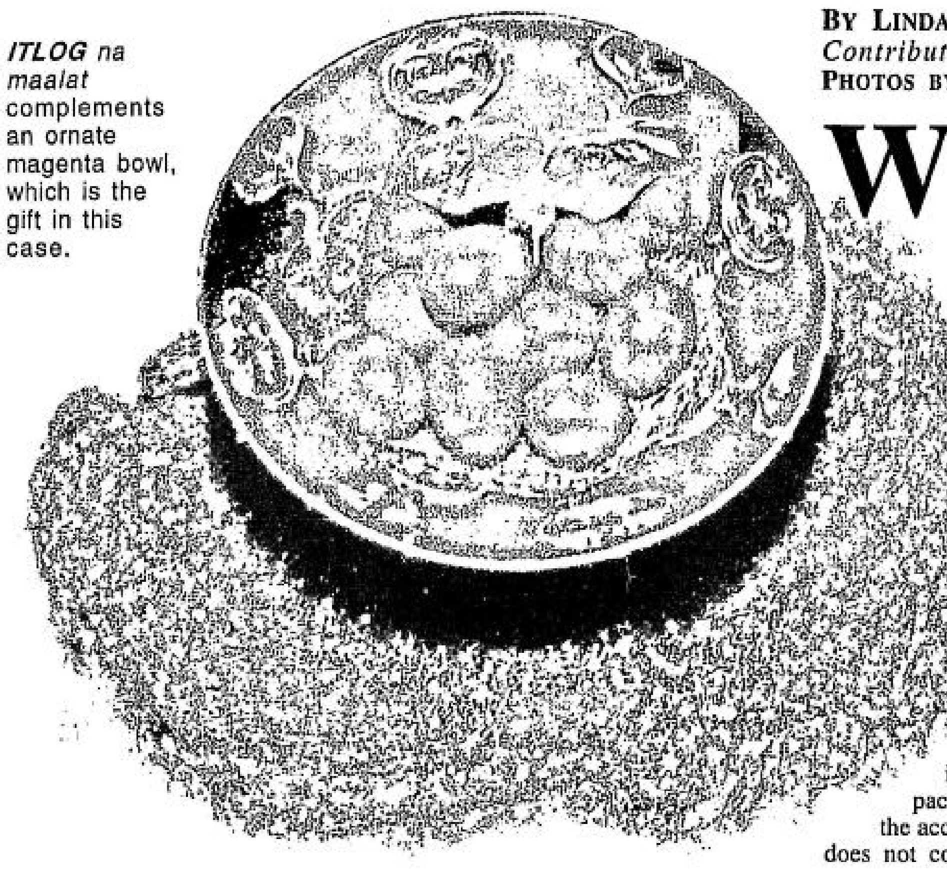


A BIT of glitter and a bunch of cookies make a mother-of-pearl tray an attractive gift.

In Cuna's artistic hands, the gift may not be in the package

And that's a wrap!

By Linda B. Bolido
Contributor
Photos by Romy Homillada



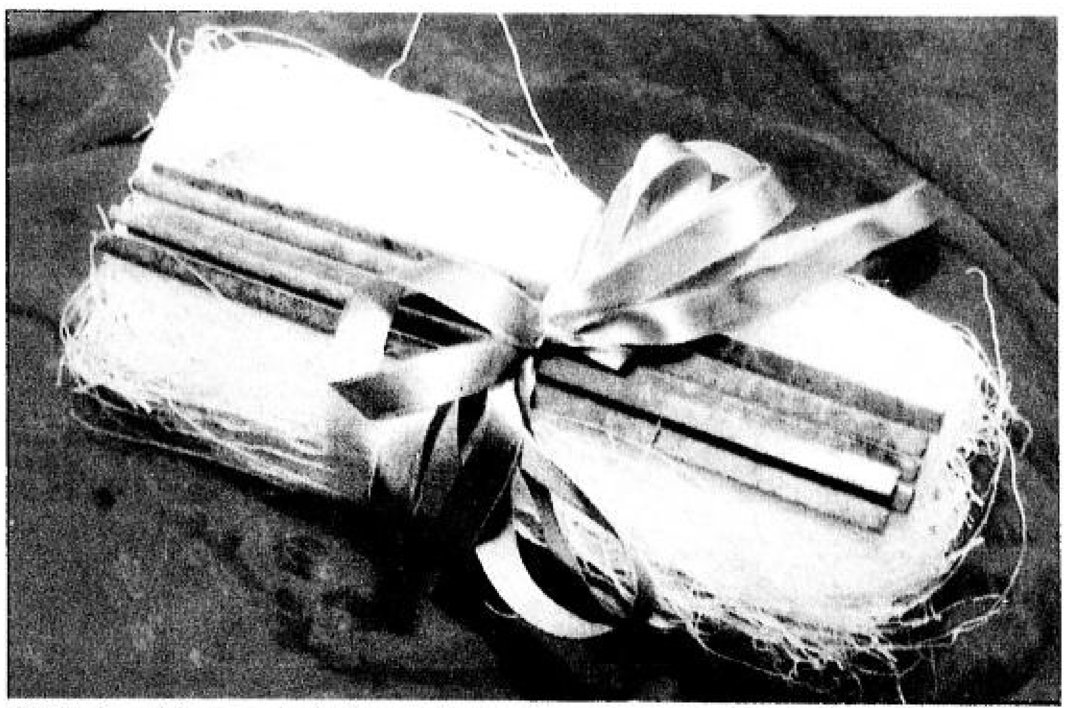
***ITLOG** na maalat* complements an ornate magenta bowl, which is the gift in this case.

WITH RACHY Cuna, gift packaging and wrapping often defy convention.

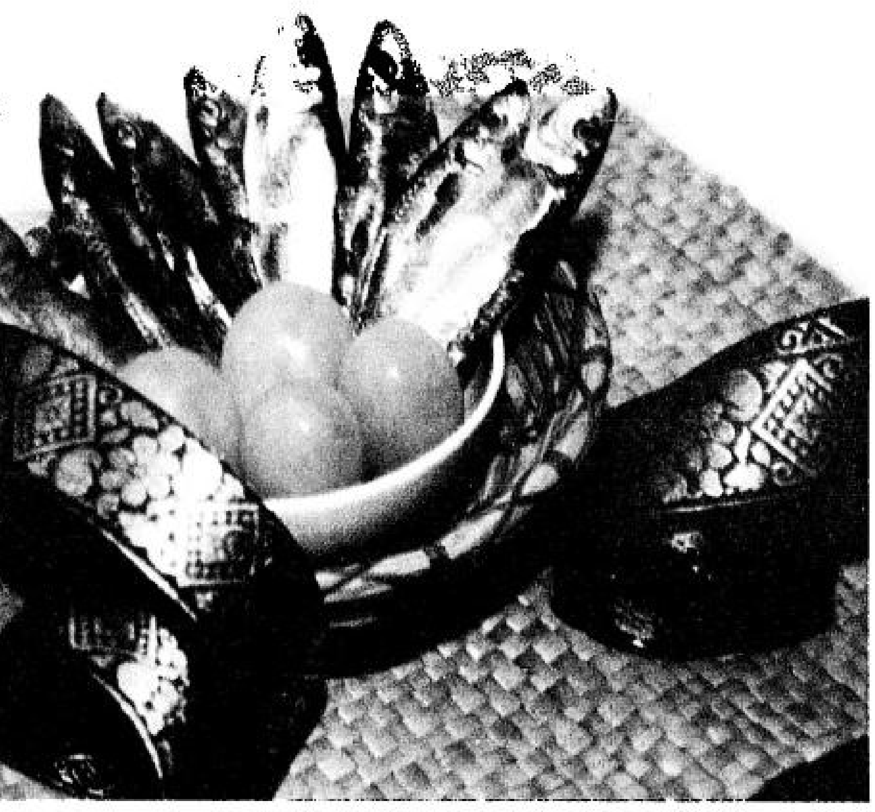
A wedding present he once packaged had the newlyweds unable to decide for a while if they should just leave the gift as it was since the wrapping was too exquisite to tear up. The gift, a framed Chinese painting, was wrapped in white tissue and tied with a wide strip of tulle that ended in a bow in the middle. Artificial twigs and vines with dainty little white flowers and tiny leaves were stuck into the bow. If the package were any smaller, the bride could have very well used it as a minimalist bouquet.

Cuna's idea of preparing gifts for the holidays or any occasion makes it quite as likely that the package is the present as the present is in the package. "Sometimes the package is the gift and what is inside is the accent," he says of some of his work. He does not confine himself to the traditional gift

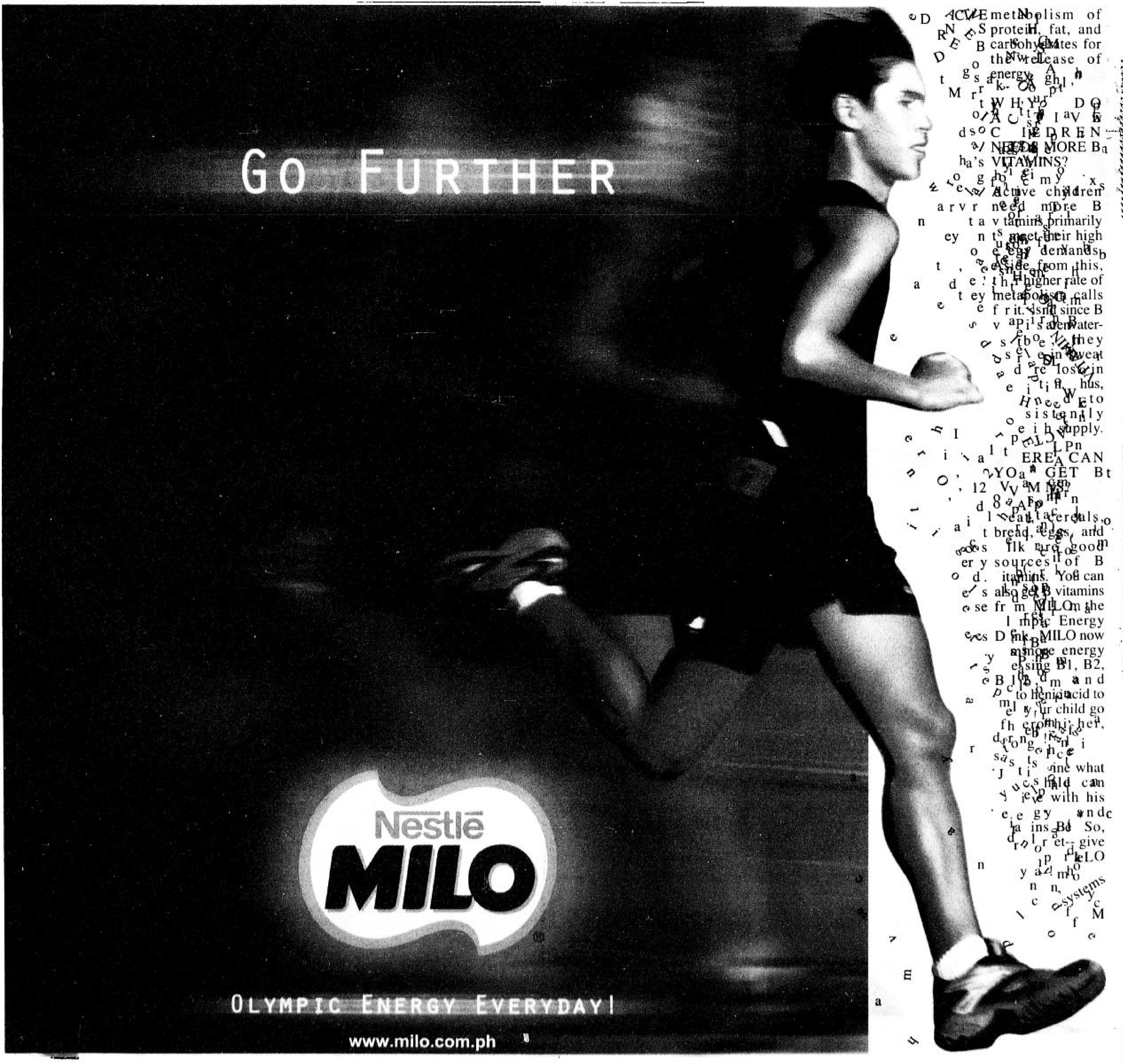
AND/ p.C9



JADE chopsticks on a bed of *sotanghon* and tied with a green ribbon



TUYO and *kamatis* provide the accents to a porcelain bowl on a native woven basket.



metabolism of protein, fat, and carbohydrates for the release of energy.

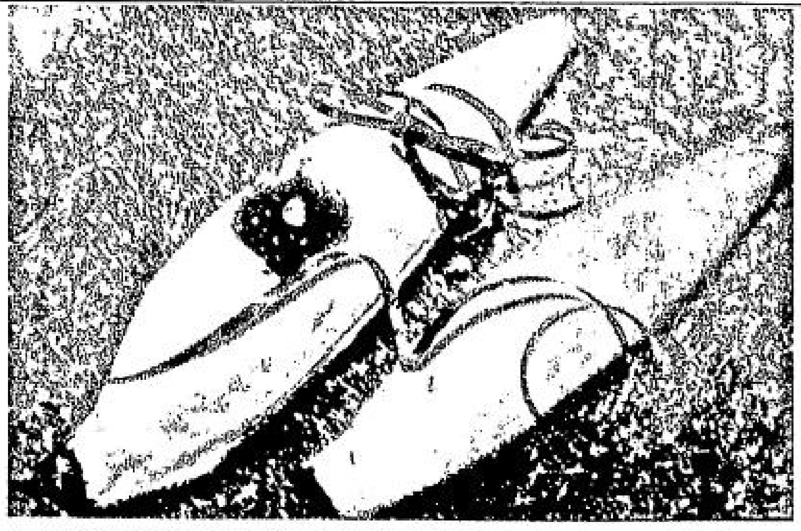
WHY DO ACTIVE CHILDREN NEED MORE B VITAMINS?

Active children need more B vitamins primarily to meet their high energy demands. Aside from this, their higher rate of metabolism calls for it. And since B vitamins are water-soluble, they [illegible] in sweat [illegible] lost in [illegible]. Thus, [illegible] need [illegible] to [illegible] consistently [illegible] supply.

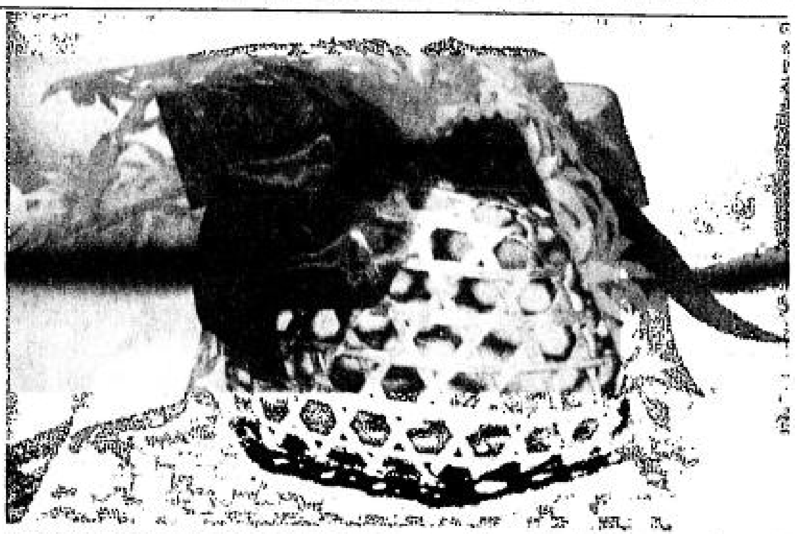
WHERE CAN YOU GET B VITAMINS?

[illegible] cereals, bread, eggs, and milk are good sources of B vitamins. You can also get B vitamins from MILO, the Olympic Energy Drink. MILO now [illegible] more energy [illegible] B1, B2, B6, B12 and [illegible] acid to help your child go [illegible] what [illegible] child can achieve with his energy and [illegible] vitamins. So, [illegible] give [illegible] MILO [illegible] systems

TWO red *isis* make a colorful package for a pair of diamond earrings.



A 5-CARAT diamond ring is embedded in a *puso ng saging* to show it comes from and with the heart.



LACY *pastillas* wrappers decorate a gold-painted birdcage that will hold *pastillas* and other sweets.

And that's a wrap!

(From page C8)

wrappers and ribbons. As with his flower arrangements, which earned him from admirers the title floral architect, Cuna is limited only by his imagination.

A 5-carat diamond ring nestles in a *puso ng saging*, a set of jade chopsticks is on a bed of *sotanghon* while a bottle of wine is wrapped with a *tinalak* placemat. Two miniature Yakan food covers inverted over each other have enough space to hold a variety of surprises, a stylized dipper made of coconut shell and wood carries mountain rice while a small birdcage, with ribbons made of wrappers of *pastillas*, is filled with sweets.

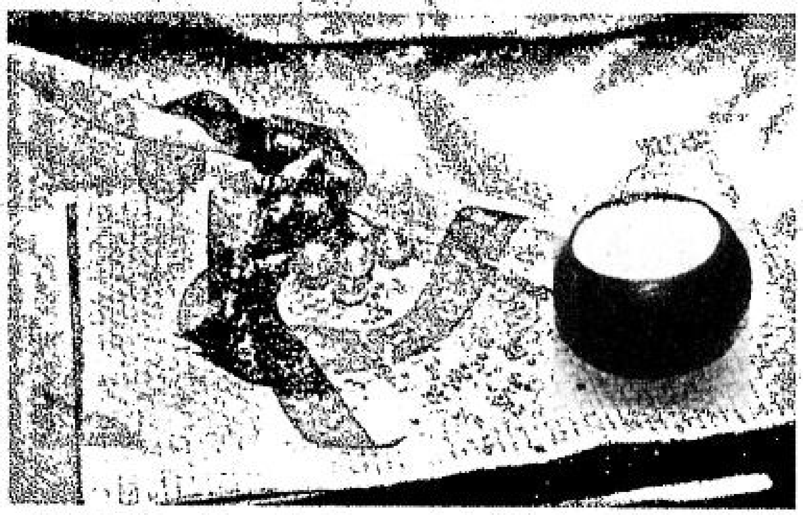
Nothing too lowly

Cuna, who is often asked by Manila's movers and shakers to package their giveaways, mixes and matches materials in very unusual ways and it seems like nothing is too lowly or commonplace that he could not find any use for it. In the occasional lecture-demonstrations he gives on gift-wrapping, he usually advises participants to "look around you (for things that can be of use)." As with his other creative endeavors, Cuna shows a partiality to native handicraft and products for his gift packaging/wrapping materials or, if he has to go further afield, Asian stuff. He travels to the provinces and visits public markets collecting all sorts of things that often end up in his flower arrangements, the décor he is asked to do for various events (he has also been dubbed events stylist), or his gifts. But Divisoria is always a favorite haunt.

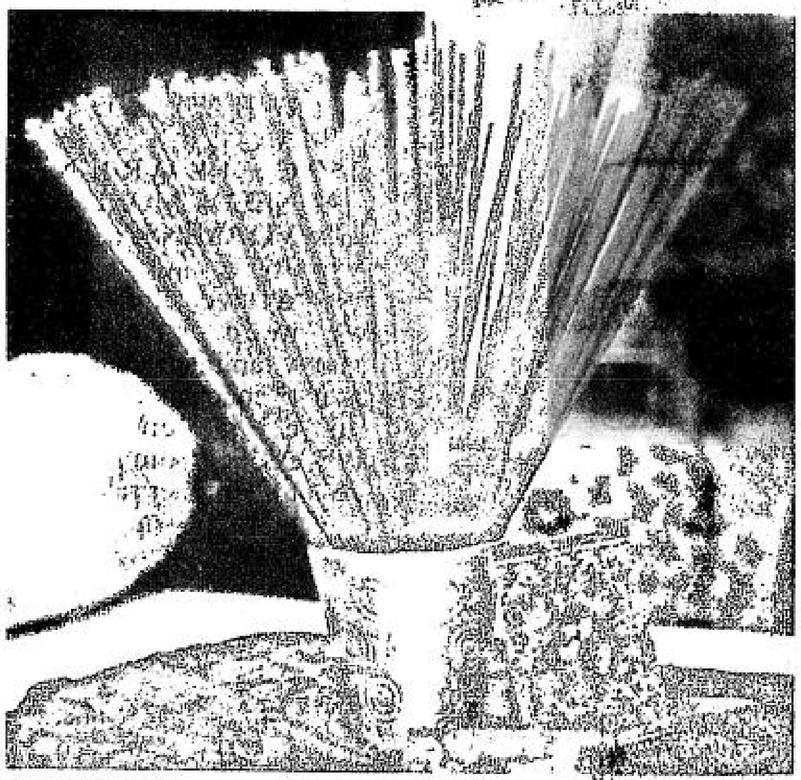
With his packages often attractive by themselves, Cuna says wrapper becomes unnecessary, unless it is needed for protection during transport. The wrapping could be a swathe of *sinamay*, gauze or tissue.

Some people might find it odd that so much imagination and creativity is expended on something as routine as gift-wrapping. But for Cuna very few tasks are too small not to bother with. Besides, the trouble he takes with the packaging and wrapping is meant to convey—as much as the gift itself—the esteem, the admiration, the affection or whatever feelings for the recipient go with the present. He thinks that at no other time is the common expression "It is the thought that matters not the gift" more appropriate than during these difficult days.

TWO miniature Yakan food covers offer a lot of possibilities as a gift package.

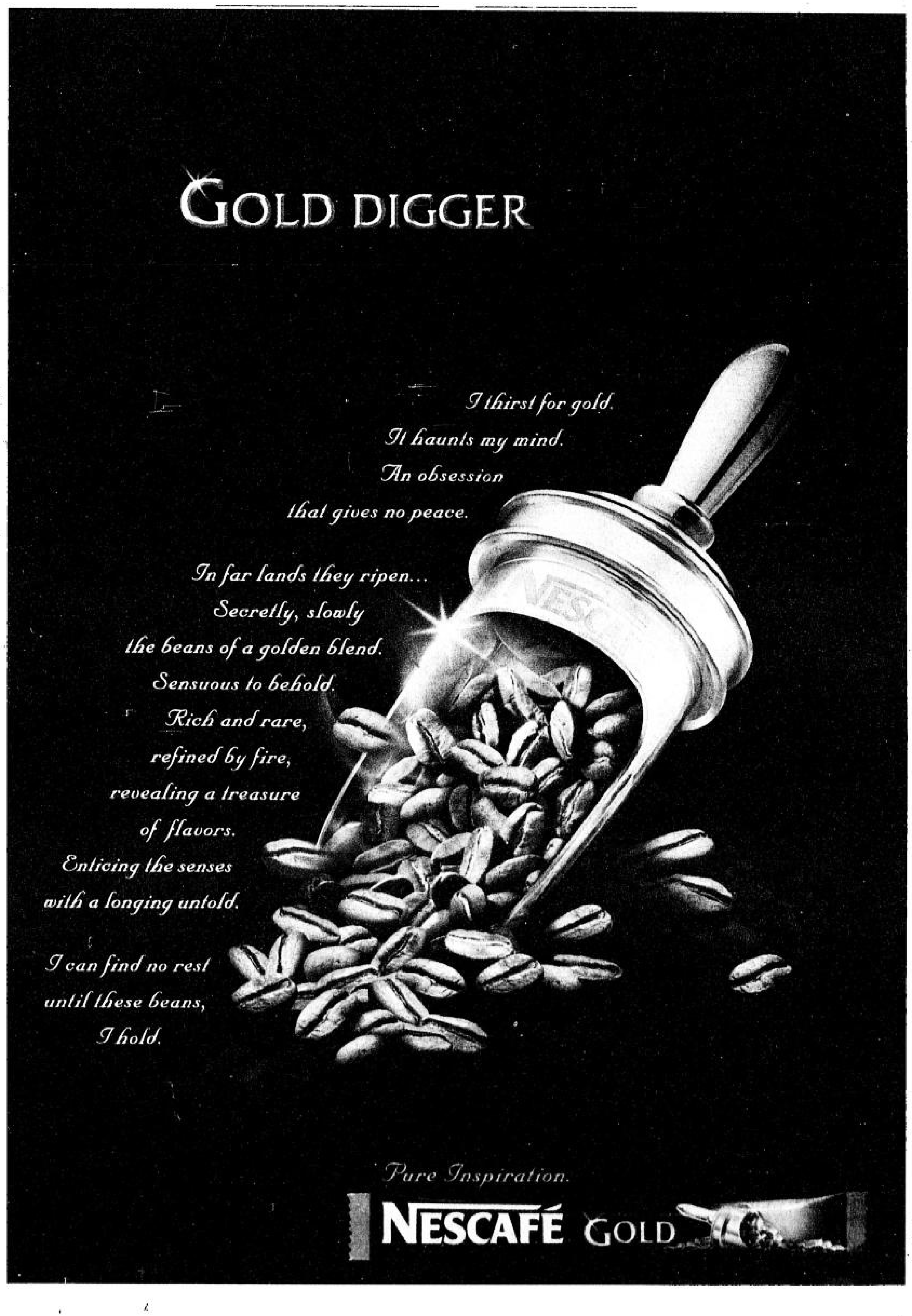


A STYLIZED *salok* made of coconut shell and wood is trimmed with mountain rice and a length of ribbon.



A BUNCH of incense sticks is arranged like a floral offering in a silver cup with etchings.

CUNA wraps a bottle of gin in authentic *tinalak* placemat. A colorful ribbon completes the package.



GOLD DIGGER

I thirst for gold.
It haunts my mind.
An obsession
that gives no peace.

In far lands they ripen...
Secretly, slowly
the beans of a golden blend.
Sensuous to behold.
Rich and rare,
refined by fire,
revealing a treasure
of flavors.
Enticing the senses
with a longing untold.

I can find no rest
until these beans,
I hold.

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CHOIR of angels

IT'S tea time for Gretchen Monica and her friends.

CHRISTMAS carolers

DOLLS in holiday clothes adorn even the staircase.

Living in a doll house

(From page C12)

to import control. What I had then were local rag dolls. But I've always loved porcelain ones, which have real value," De Vega says.

Whenever she travels, she never fails to buy dolls in costumes. "Every time I see dolls, it's as if they speak to me, 'Please take me home. I want to belong to you'."

Hearth and heart

De Vega does not hesitate to declare that she's "mad about dolls." "They keep my spirits high. Sometimes, I talk to them but I don't let other people hear our conversation for they might think I've gone nuts."

For her, dolls evoke a sense of security, comfort and nostalgia. They are the hearth and heart of her home. "It's easier to take care of 700 dolls than children." The dolls are wiped with a clean piece of cloth. Their clothes are dry-cleaned and changed four times a year, depending on the occasion. Each doll wears a pair of shoes and satin underwear, which has its name in embroidery. An 1870 doll is dressed for Christmas, winter, spring, summer and autumn.

Some pieces from De Vega's collection were exhibited years ago at Rustan's and Makati Cinema Square.

De Vega and her staff also restore dolls but only those owned by friends.

As director of Eternal Plans and Prime East Properties, a member of the Friends of CCP, Zonta Club and Concerned Women of the Philippines and former president of the Philippine Canine Club, De Vega often hosts gatherings or meetings at her house. But visitors can only stay in the garden because the dolls occupy all the chairs and tables inside the house. "They're so many that they might drive me away from my home someday," De Vega says.

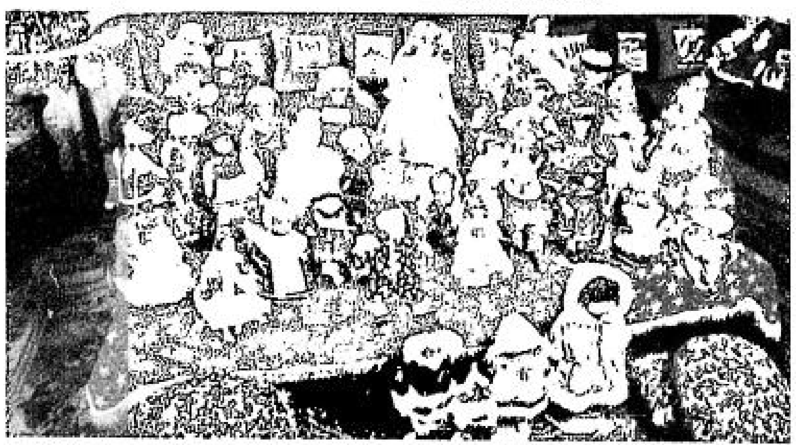
Some of the dolls, which cost from P350-P25,000, have been named after European queens. Some antique dolls can sell for $50,000 in auctions.

De Vega's favorite, Gretchen Monica, which was bought in Vienna in 1993, was named after the sales lady and a little girl she once knew in California. Gretchen Monica's dress was patterned after the Halloween costume of De Vega's granddaughter Isabel, who has her own collection of 50 dolls.

"These dolls have been a source of joy for me since the death of my husband in 1975. Four of them, dressed in their night clothes, even sleep with me," De Vega says.

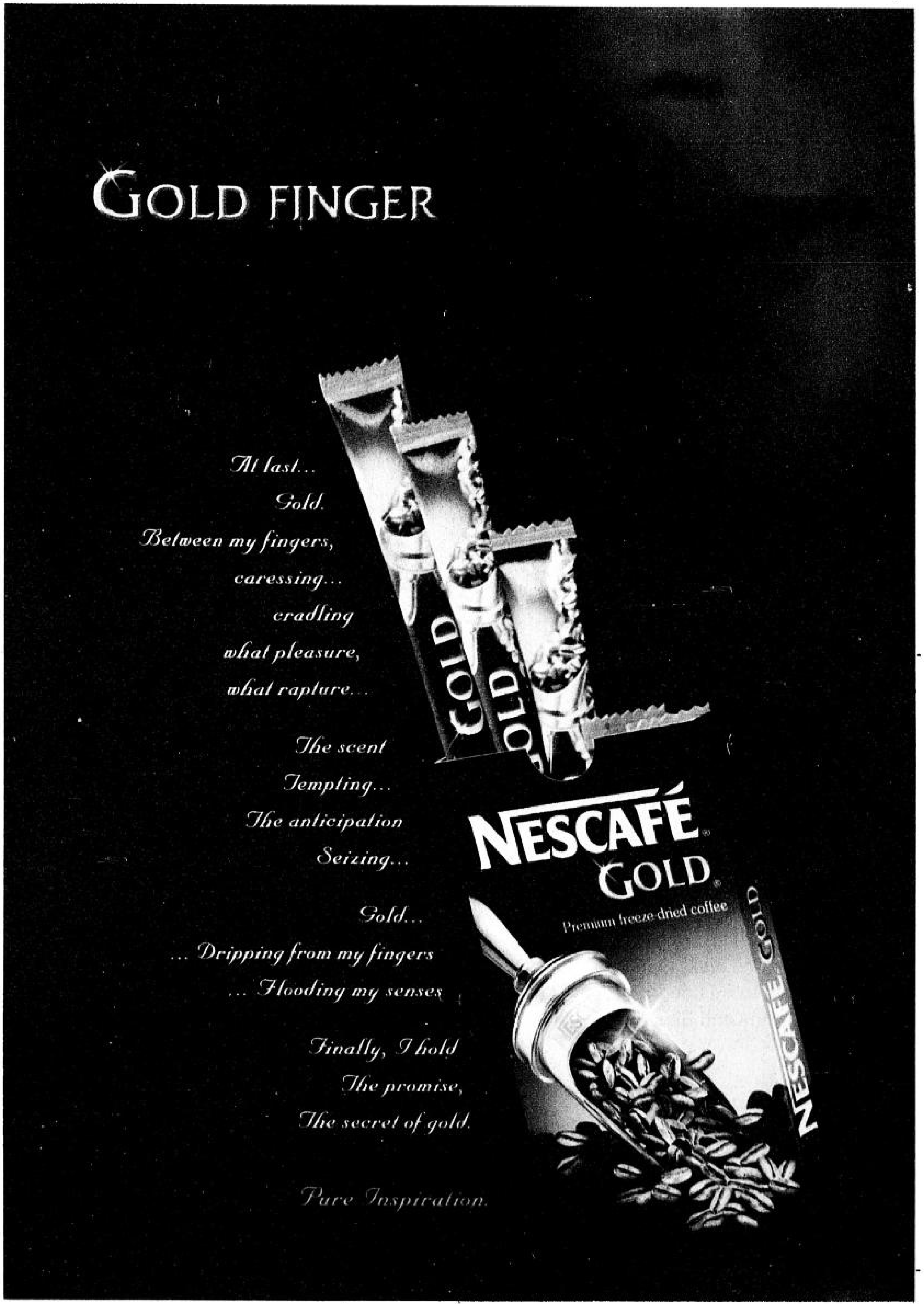
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

A BOY dresses up for Christmas.



RAG dolls and dolls in costumes are displayed in one corner of the living room.

A COLLECTION of dolls from all over the world



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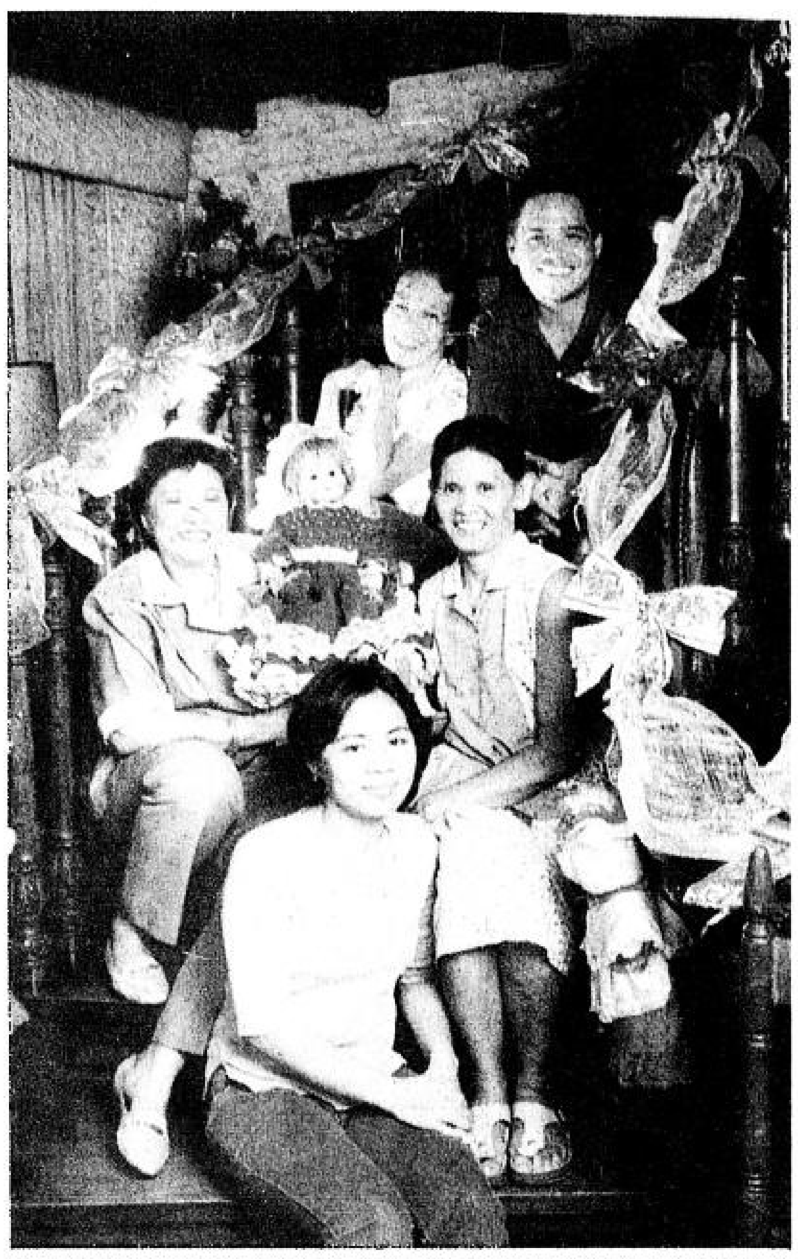
Between my fingers,
caressing...
cradling
what pleasure,
what rapture...

The scent
Tempting...
The anticipation
Seizing...

Gold...
... Dripping from my fingers
... Flooding my senses

Finally, I hold
The promise,
The secret of gold.

Pure Inspiration.



CHUCHIE de Vega (second row, left) with her staff namely, Alex Estinado (designer and hairstylist) Inday Hitalla, Violy Manapol and Mary Jane Limen (dressmakers)

A PIANIST in casual clothes

A CLOWN and her baby

CLOWNS share space with young ladies

Living in a doll house

De Vega's household companions dress up for the holidays

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

TO KNOW Rocio "Chuchie" de Vega, look no farther than her house in New Manila, Quezon City. It showcases everything that she holds dear: dolls and pets. The living, dining and bedrooms are filled with fashionable dolls while the garden belongs to dogs, cats, a mynah and parrots.

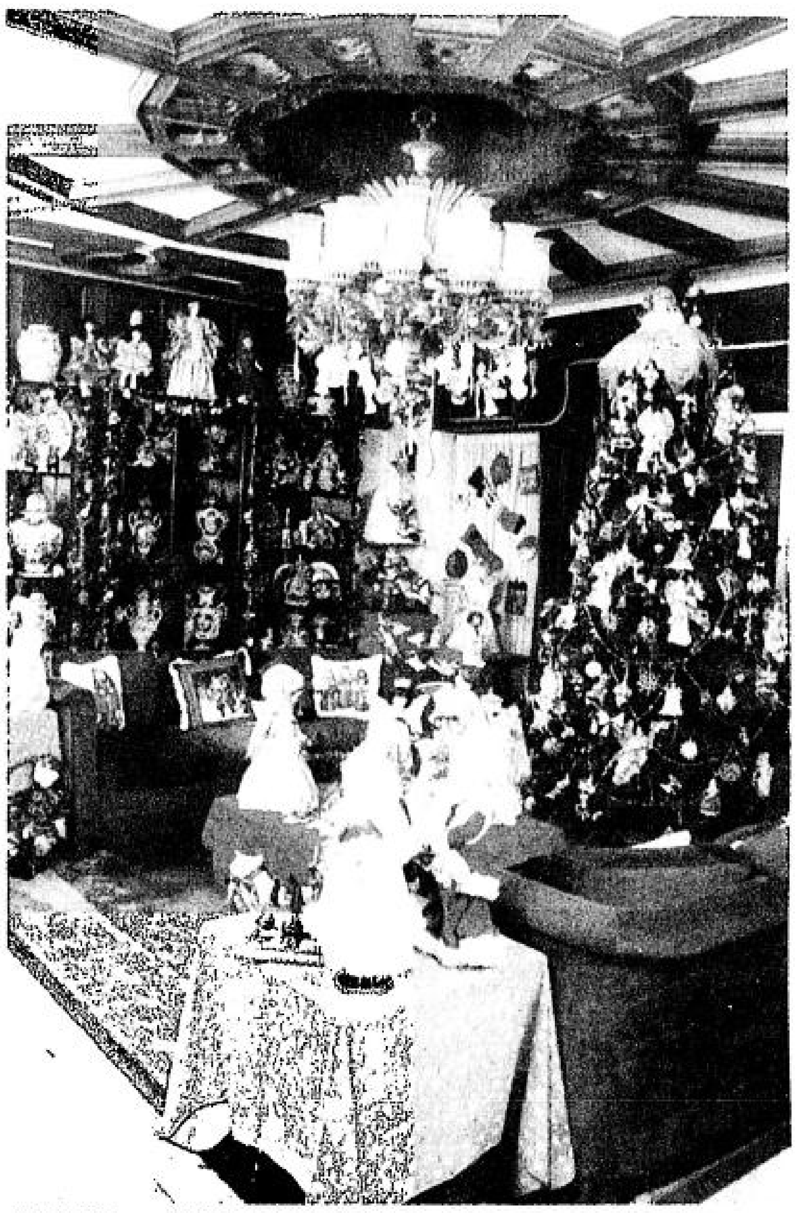
Come holiday time, some of the dolls are dressed up for the occasion as carolers, angels and partygoers. After the Feast of the Three Kings, the dolls return to their plastic bags. Those that are not in Christmas costumes are on display throughout the year.

De Vega's staff helps her take care of the dolls. Alex Estinado designs their clothes and hairstyles. Inday Hitalla, Violy Manapol and Mary Jane Limen execute his designs. They go to Divisoria for "lace-hunting expeditions" and buy a yard each of different kinds of fabrics. According to De Vega, 1½ yards are enough for the clothes of two dolls. "Most of these fabrics don't look nice on people but they do on dolls," says De Vega, who began collecting dolls when she was teaching Philosophy at Lyceum University and the University of the East.

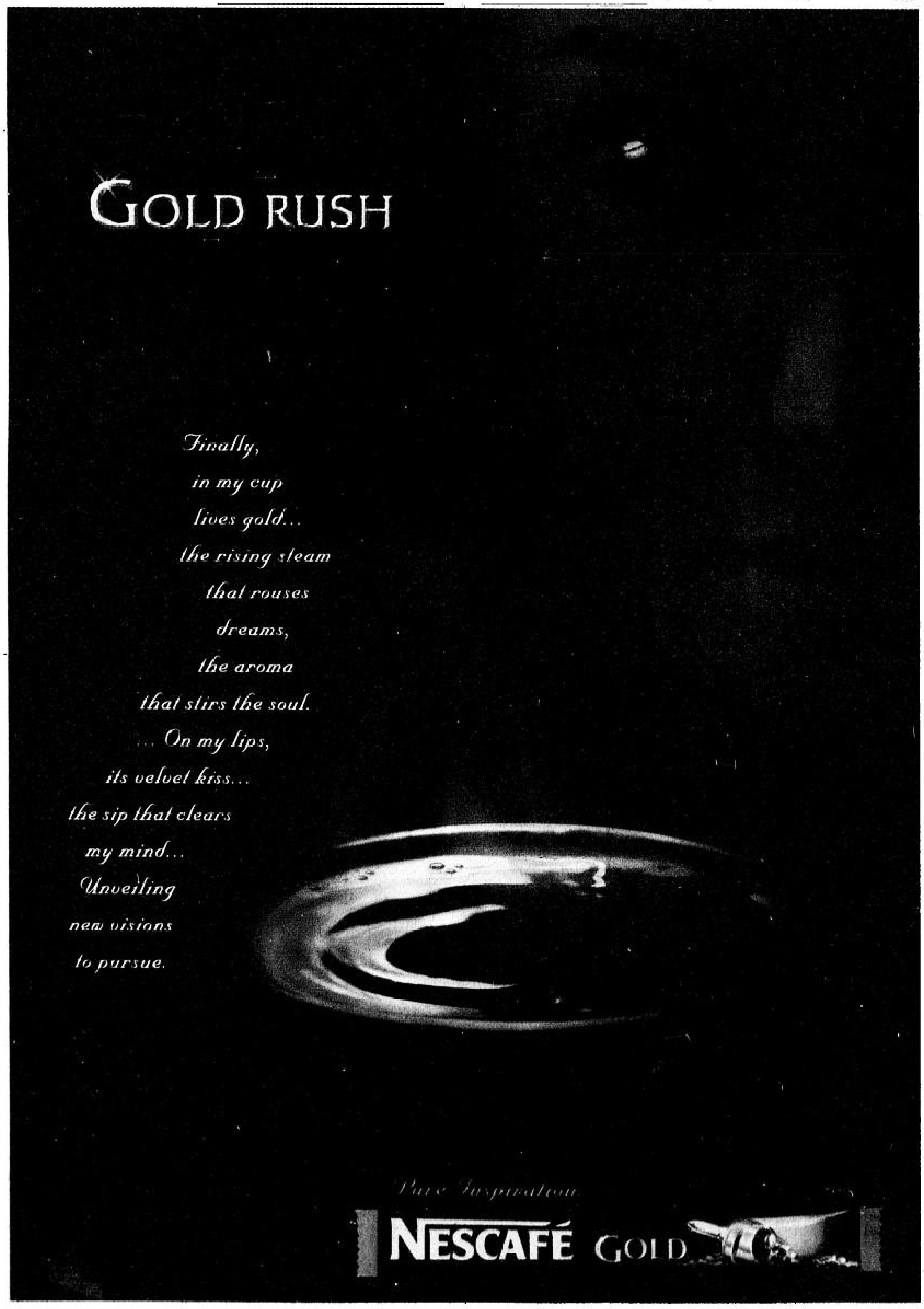
She was impressed by the beauty of porcelain and vinyl dolls, which she saw in magazines. When her daughter Margarita Francisco, an investment banker, got married, she left her own collection to De Vega, who now has 700 dolls collected in a span of 30 years.

"When I was still a kid, such imported dolls were not available due

LIVING/ p.C11



A LIVING room full of dolls



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in my cup
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that rouses
dreams,
the aroma
that stirs the soul.
... On my lips,
its velvet kiss...
the sip that clears
my mind...
Unveiling
new visions
to pursue.

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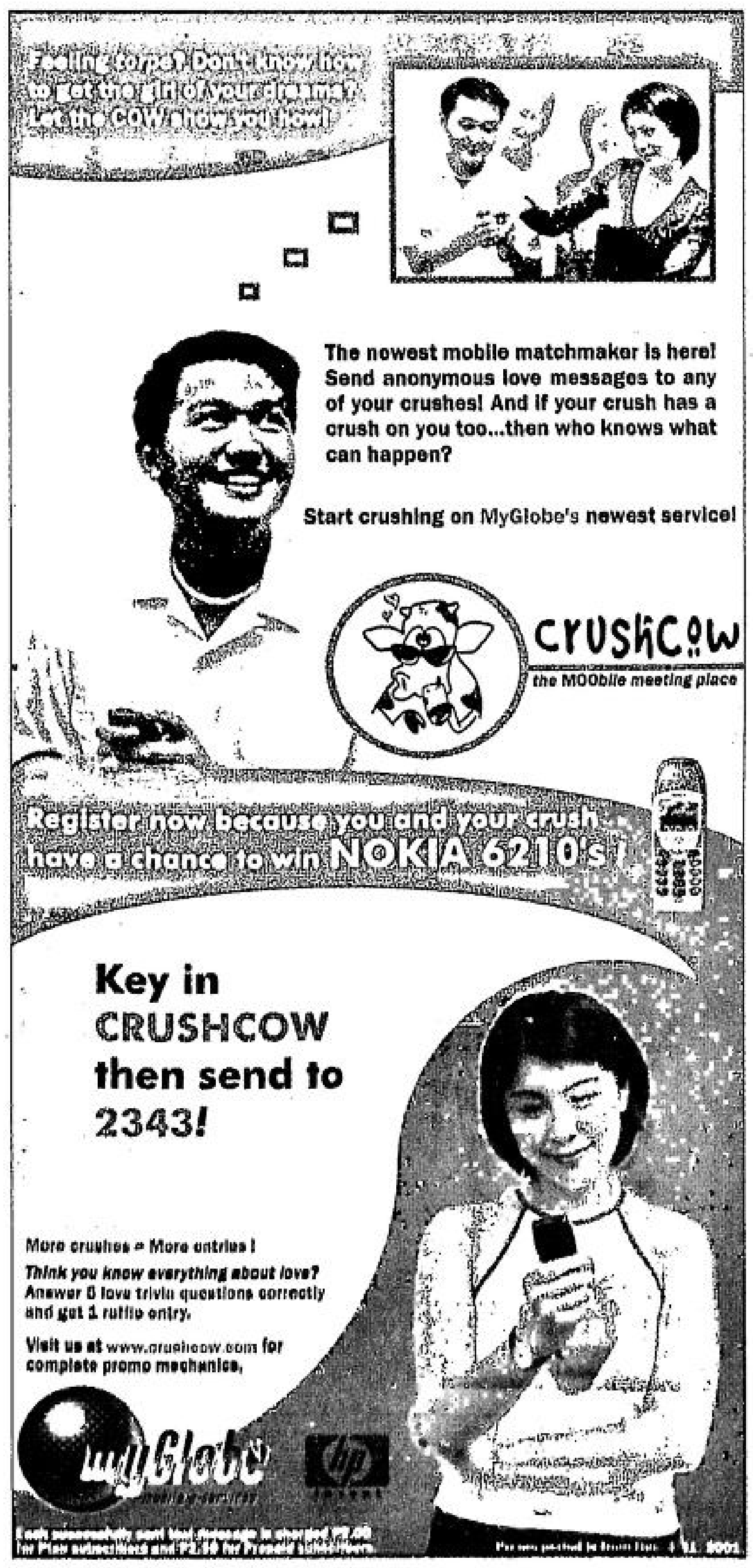

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

A wedding of two cultures

Story on page D2

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A wedding of two cultures

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ
Contributor

WHEN young and pretty Korean lass Cho Yun Haeng—Grace to her Filipino friends—came to Manila to learn English, little did she know she would meet the man who will be her lifetime partner. The lucky guy is Stephen "Jojo" Sarino, son of former QC Vice Mayor Steve Sarino and incumbent QC council-member Wilma Amoranto-Sarino. The couple was introduced to each other by Young Choi, Grace's Korean pal.

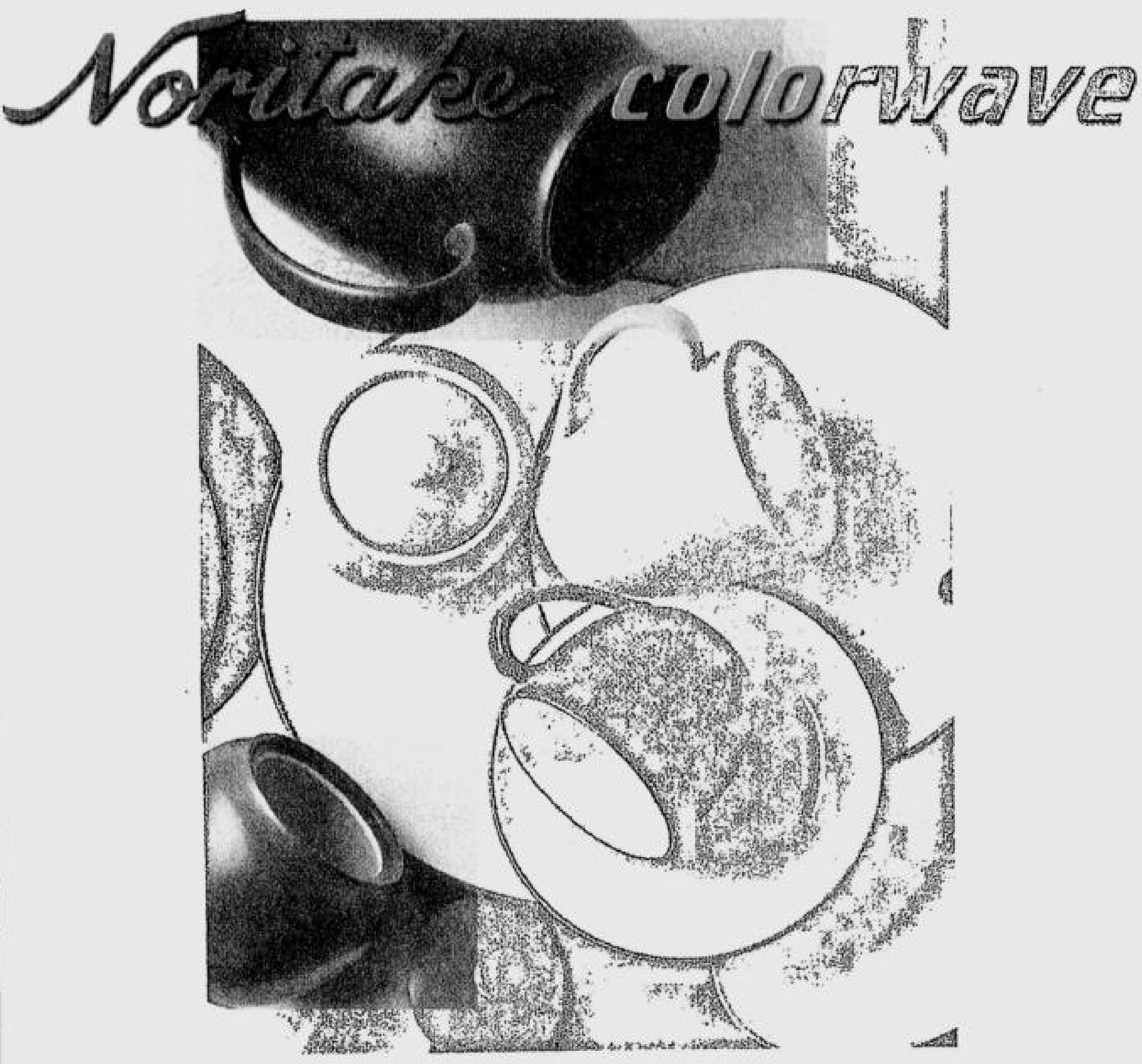
In a beautiful blending of the best of Filipino and Korean cultures and traditions, Jojo and Grace made their matrimonial vows in two separate and distinctive occasions. A typical Filipino nuptial was solemnized at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church in West Triangle, QC, by Fathers Joey Martin, Larry Toledo and Reno Enopeña. Grace was stunning in an exquisite Western-style gown while Jojo cut a dashing figure in a hand-embroidered barong by Eric Pineda.

NEWLYWEDS Grace and Jojo Sarino

THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's family: (clockwise, from bottom left) parents Wilma and Steve Sarino (seated), brothers Jerry and Jonathan and sister-in-law Stephanie

A full-blown dinner reception followed at the Coconut Palace at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. Artist George Cabullo set up white tents around the pool area and lit the place up with dozens of white Korean lanterns. The groom's brothers, Sonny (he flew in from the United States for the wedding), Jerry and Jonathan, took charge of the whole affair, hiring Ernie Pasamba's Strings to provide the ambient music at the reception and Nonoy Lopez and his Band for the after-dinner ballroom dancing. A breathtaking fireworks display capped the traditional

A WEDDING/ p.D4



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THE NEWLYWEDS with their *ninangs* Janet Garcia, Claudette Dizon, Nela Ferrer, Naty Pappas, Patring Co, Rory Eizmendi, Lolita Tiu, Letty Ligon, Helen Ong, Chit Vizconde and Vicky Amalingan

JOJO and Grace with *ninongs* Rep. Jesli Lapus, Rolly Asis, Mauro Arce Jr., Rhegis Romero, Tony Dulce Cesar Sarino, Ronnie Salonga, Jose Acuzar, Vic del Rosario, Freddie Bermudes and Edong Cano

A wedding of two cultures

THE BRIDE'S parents Cho Byong Hwan and Lee Jung Im

(From page D2)

toast. The buffet was an enticing medley of Filipino and Korean cuisine prepared by Nena Jacinto's D'Swan Bake Shop and Catering.

A few weeks later, the couple, together with the groom's family and close friends, flew to Seoul to repeat their vows in traditional Korean rites. The bride's parents, Cho Byong Hwan and Lee Jung Im, made all the preparations for the ceremony, which was held at a beautiful garden surrounded by tile-roofed temples in Namsankol Hanyokmaul in Central Seoul.

Guests, many in authentic Korean wedding attire called *handoks*, took off their shoes and sat on cushioned mats to witness the colorful rites that once more united Jojo and Grace as man and wife. After the offering of fresh fruits, cookies and a live chicken, a *zulesa* (Korean priest) presided over the rites, chanting hymns of praise and words of wisdom. The rites ended with the rice wine ceremony with the happy newlyweds drinking from the same goblet. To the Koreans, the gesture signifies that the couple's souls become one by sharing wine from the same cup.

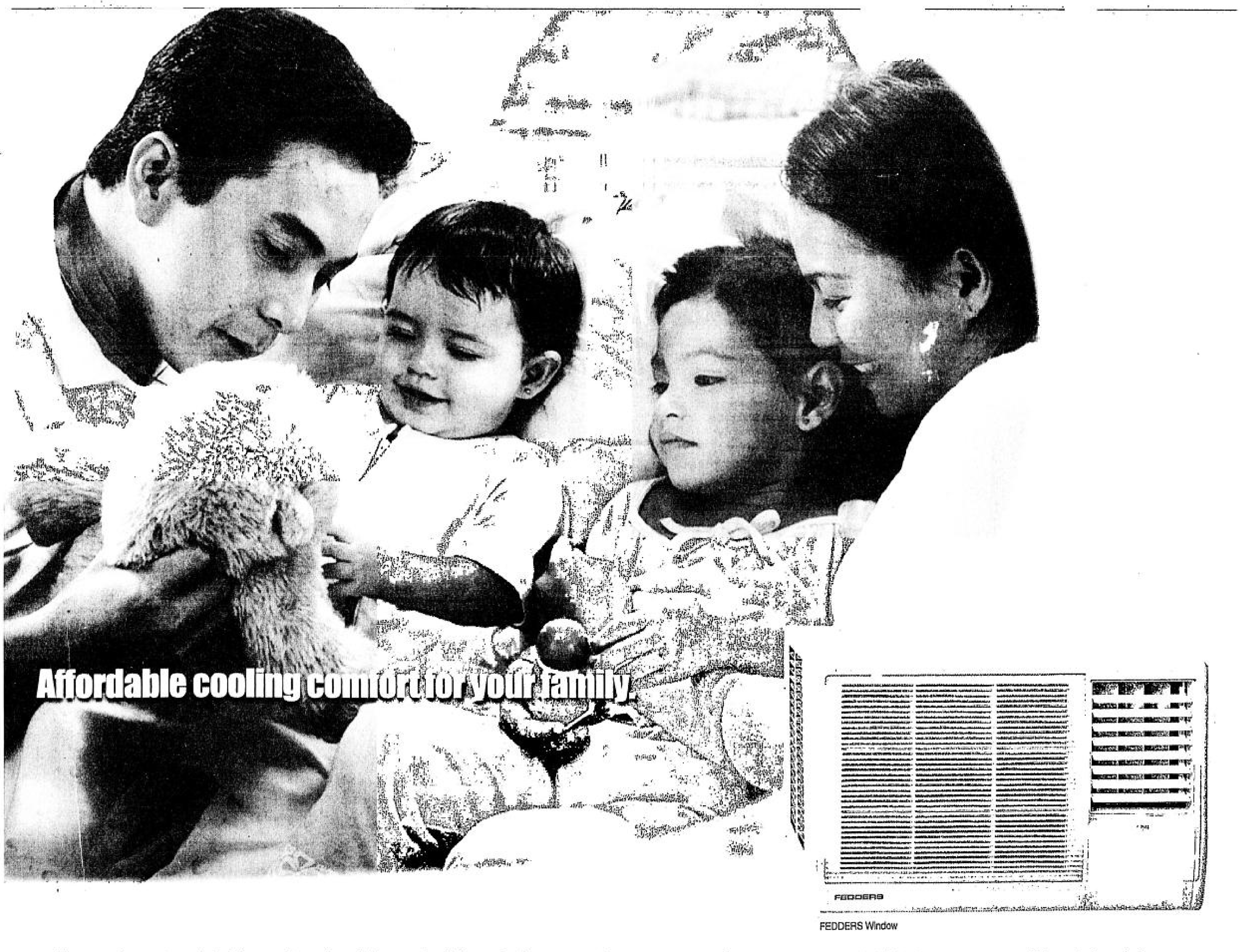
Jojo and Grace's *ninongs* were Tarlac Representative Jesli Lapus, Cesar Sarino, former president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, businessmen Vic del Rosario, Ronnie Salonga, Rolly Asis, Mauro Arce Jr., Fidel Bermudez, Rhegie Romero, Alfredo Cano, Antonio Dulce, former governor Oscar Orbos and architect Jose Acuzar. *Ninangs* were Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, Vicky Amalingan, Patricia Co, Claudette Dizon, Rory Eizmendi, Nela Ferrer, Janet Garcia, Letty Ligon, Helen Ong, Naty Pappas, Lolita Tiu and Tess Vizcode. Best man and matron of honor were the groom's brother, Dr. Wilbur Sarino, and his wife Stephanie.

The newlyweds flew to Bali for their honeymoon. Cheers!

JOJO and Grace Sarino in traditional Korean wedding costumes

JOJO gives his new bride a horse ride.

GRACE gets primmed up for the wedding rites.



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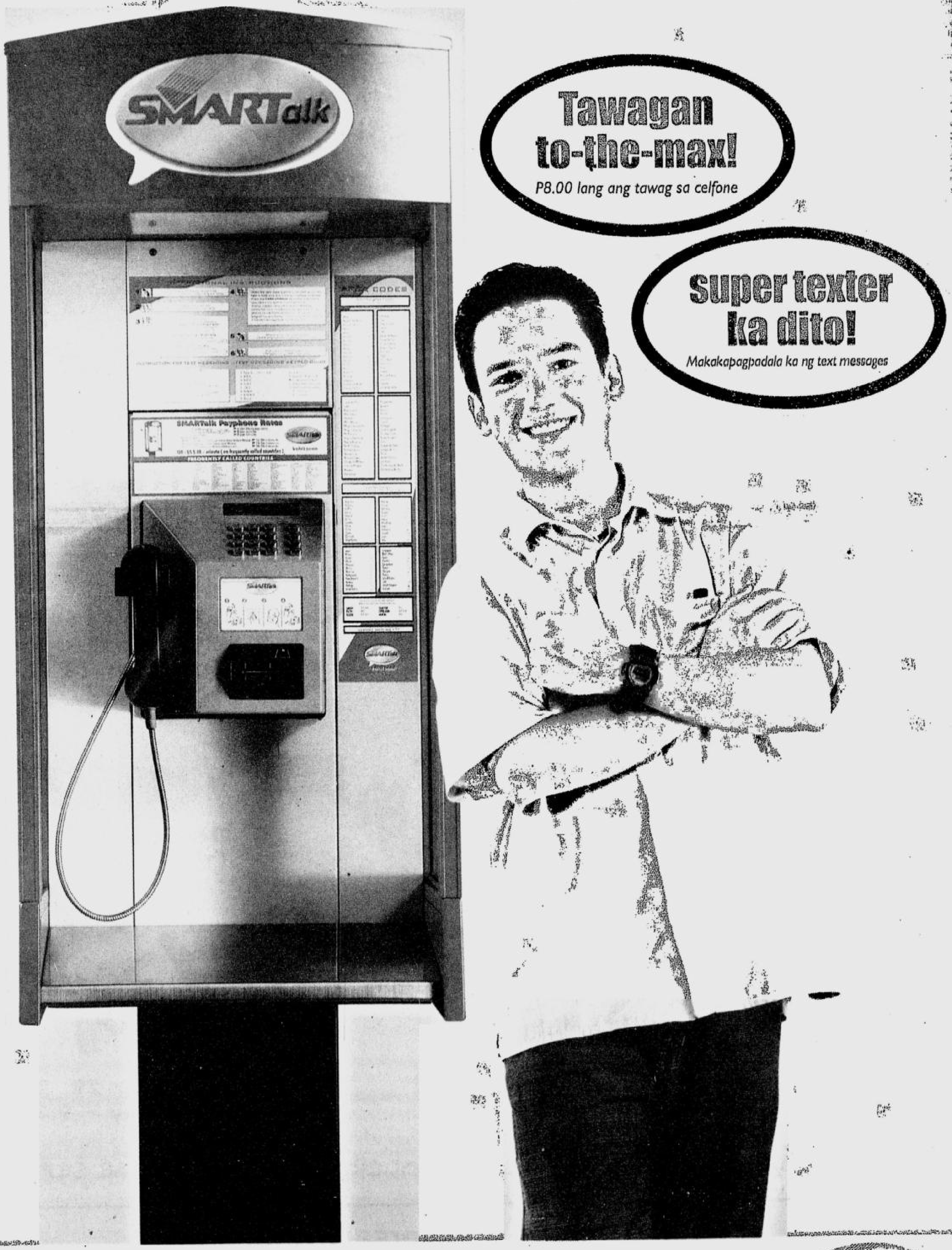
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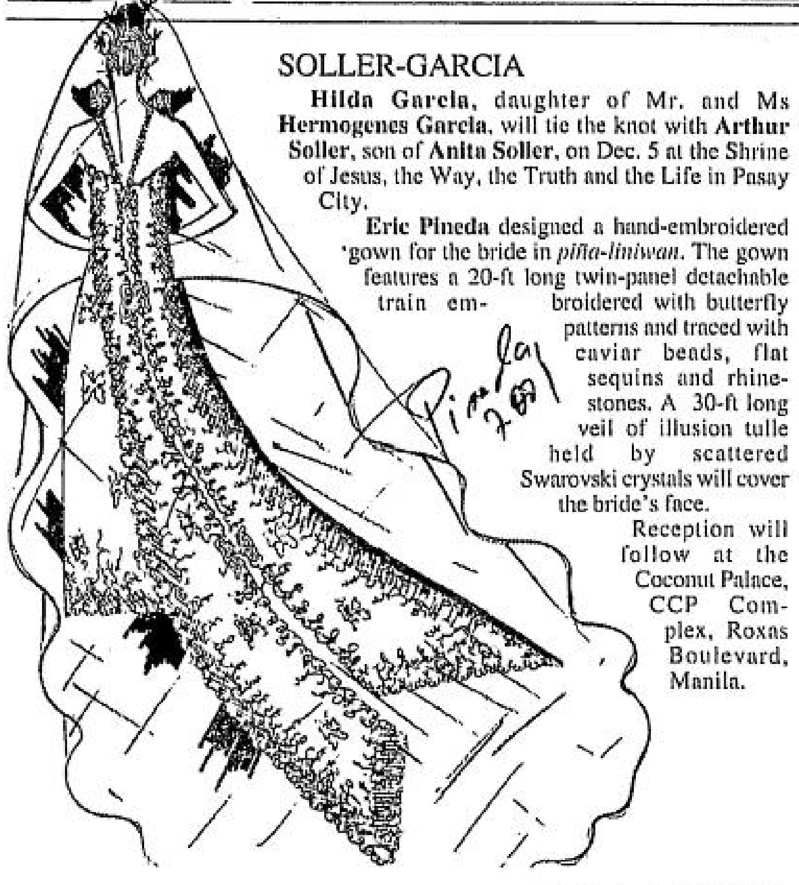
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



SOLLER-GARCIA

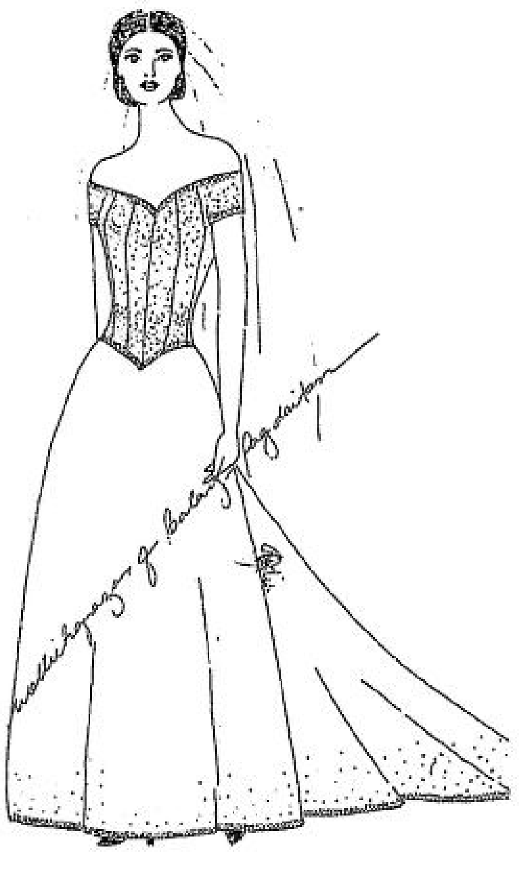
Hilda Garcia, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Hermogenes Garcia**, will tie the knot with **Arthur Soller**, son of **Anita Soller**, on Dec. 5 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life in Pasay City.

Eric Pineda designed a hand-embroidered gown for the bride in *piña-liniwan*. The gown features a 20-ft long twin-panel detachable train embroidered with butterfly patterns and traced with caviar beads, flat sequins and rhinestones. A 30-ft long veil of illusion tulle held by scattered Swarovski crystals will cover the bride's face.

Reception will follow at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

BALMEDILLA-KATIGBAK

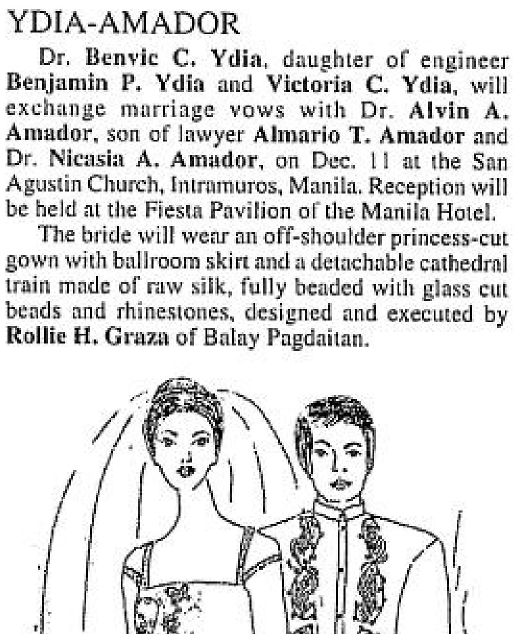
Rudyard S. Balmedilla, son of **Rodrigo** and **Salvacion Balmedilla**, will marry **Riza B. Katigbak**, daughter of **Flaviano** and **Simplicia Katigbak**, tomorrow at the Senior Social Garden of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.


Rollie Graza of Balay Pagdaitan

YDIA-AMADOR

Dr. **Benvic C. Ydia**, daughter of engineer **Benjamin P. Ydia** and **Victoria C. Ydia**, will exchange marriage vows with Dr. **Alvin A. Amador**, son of lawyer **Almario T. Amador** and Dr. **Nicasia A. Amador**, on Dec. 11 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder princess-cut gown with ballroom skirt and a detachable cathedral train made of raw silk, fully beaded with glass cut beads and rhinestones, designed and executed by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.



VIDAL-BECERA

Josephine Becera, daughter of the late **Gonzalo Becera** and **Leonida Becera**, will tie the knot with **Alberto Vidal**, son of **Pedrito Vidal** and the late **Helen Vidal**, on Dec. 8 at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Basilica, Binondo, Manila. Reception will follow at Lotus Garden Hotel, Ermita. The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped, empire-cut gown with a full-biased cut made of imported shantung silk material accentuated by intricate bead work on the bodice, hemline and on the detachable train by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.

BARAYONG-CASTOR

Lio Barayong and **Peach Castor** tied the knot on Oct. 21 at the Shrine of Jesus Church, Pasig City. Reception was held at the Heritage Hotel. Photo shows the couple with their principal sponsors, **Rolly** and **Linda Angeles**.

MORALES-ABUYO

Paul Oliver Morales and **Eleanor Abuyo** will tie the knot on Dec. 7 at the Cosmopolitan Church, Taft Avenue. The groom is a civil engineer based overseas while Ellen is a manager of Navitaire Inc.'s product services group. The couple will have a simple reception at Father Blanco's Garden in Intramuros with their families and close friends.

TAN-PANGILINAN

Edward B. Tan, son of **Mr.** and Ms **Santiago Tan** of Pagbilao, Quezon, and **Arlene S. Pangilinan**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Remigio Pangilinan** of Orion, Bataan, will be married at the Manila Cathedral on Dec. 9. Reception will follow at the Heritage Ballroom of the The Heritage Hotel.

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6. A total of four (4) barkadas will win a trip to Singapore for five to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of P25,000.00 for each barkada member in the raffle draw on January 14, 2002.
7. [illegible]
8. [illegible]
9. [illegible]
10. [illegible]

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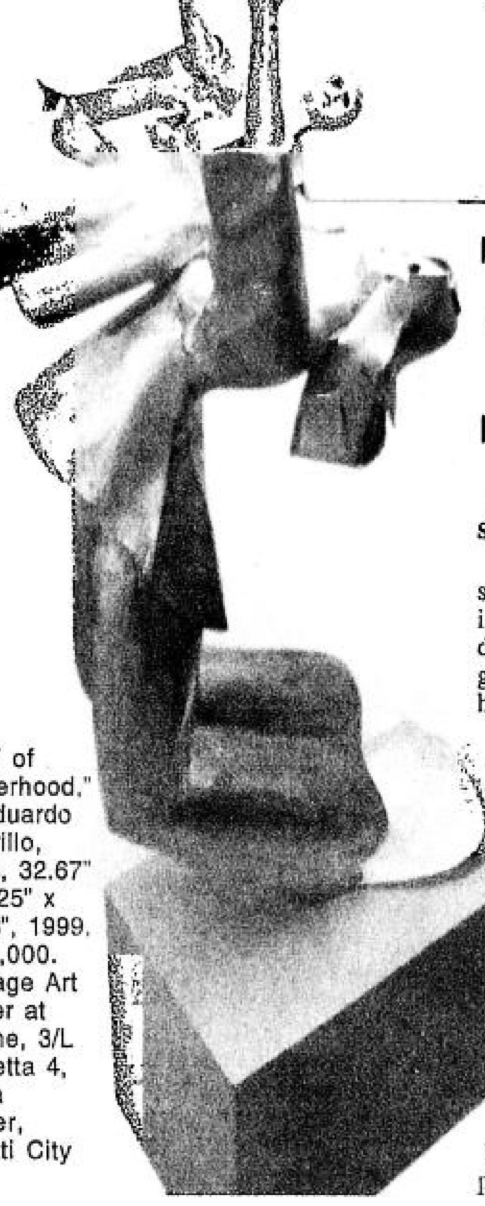
Sunday LIFESTY

The fine arts of giving

Give something expensive and useless this Christmas

(More on page E3)



"**JOY** of Motherhood," by Eduardo Castrillo, brass, 32.67" x 21.25" x 13.38", 1999. P280,000. Heritage Art Center at Artlane, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City

THE PERFECT gift is the perfectly useless gift. Diamonds, for example, or perfumery. And we should add, an artwork.

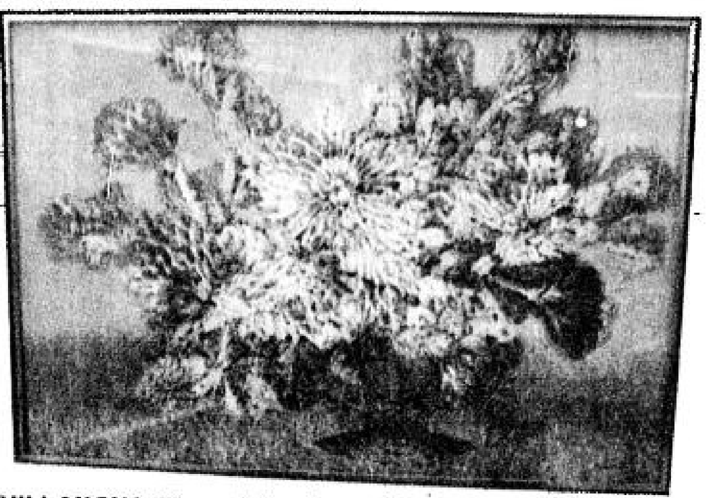
If somebody gives you a cooking utensil this season, that's utilitarian. Maybe the giver is hinting that you should cook more or renovate your decrepit kitchen in time for the *noche buena*. The giver may not necessarily be wishing for your happiness.

But if that cooking utensil is a still life by Manansala, with a certificate of ownership and originality signed by the artist, that's what we'd call the ideal gift. And you can be sure the giver is wishing you nothing but prosperity and long life to come.

From a utilitarian point of view, a painting is even more useless than either a piece of diamond jewelry or a flacon of perfume, unless you use it for fuel. But it can be more expensive.

If you're looking for the perfect gift for Christmas, drop by the art galleries and museum shops and you'll surely find fabulous artworks with, of course, equally fabulous prices.

Constantino Tejero



"**VILLANOVA** Flower," by Juvenal Sansó, acrylic on paper, 13x19", P115,000. Heritage Art Center at Artlane

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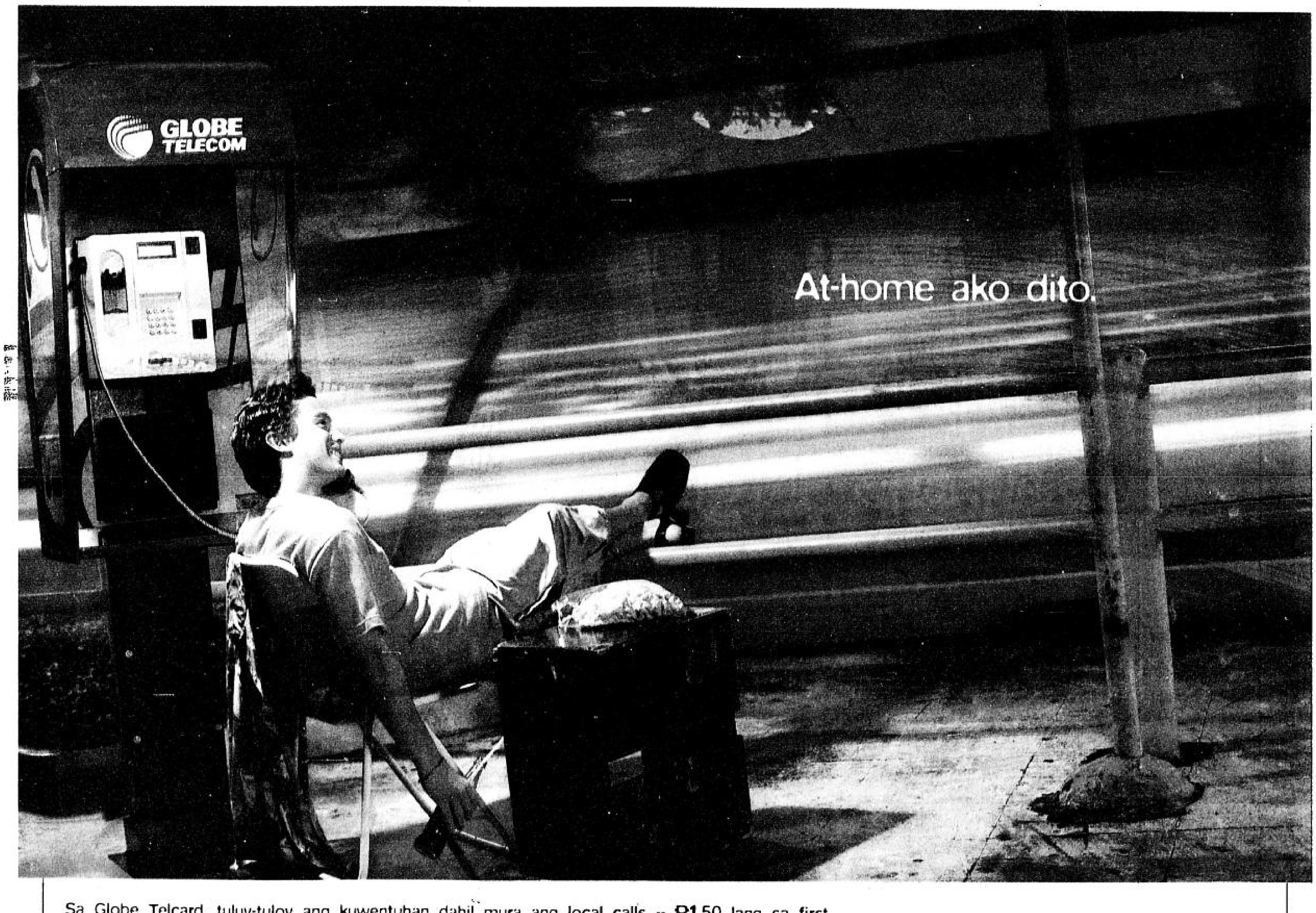

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SUPER SPORTS CAR
Jaguar has fused the best of past and present to come up with the XK sports car series. The XKR (P10.65 million) convertible pictured above has a top speed of 250 km/hour, and could accelerate from 0-100 km/hour in 5.6 seconds.

Dream cars

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Alex Vergara

BRITISH ROYALTY'S CHOICE
Considered as top of the line among Jaguar cars, the Daimler four-door sedan series earned a reputation for superior quality and luxury at the turn of the last century when it became the car of choice among British royalty. Over 100 cars have since been built for British monarchs. Jaguar Cars Inc. (tel. 897-8888) offers two variants: Daimler V8 (P8.2 million) and Daimler Super V8 (P9.6 million).

EXECUTIVE CAR OF THE YEAR
The BMW 5251A (P3.5 million) is equipped with a 2.5 liter in-line, 192 bhp 6-cylinder engine that's not only more powerful and refined, but is also equipped with a new technology called electric throttle or "e-gas." This innovation results in an even smoother and more responsive gas pedal. Pictured above is the 325iA touring, the only "station wagon" type vehicle offered by the BMW Group Philippines (tel. 885-0881).

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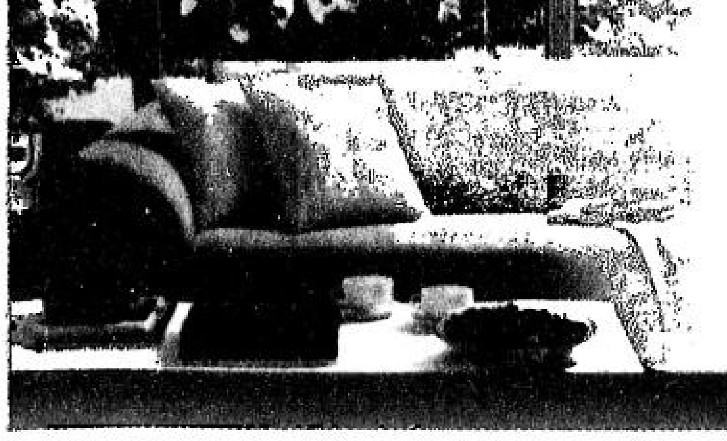

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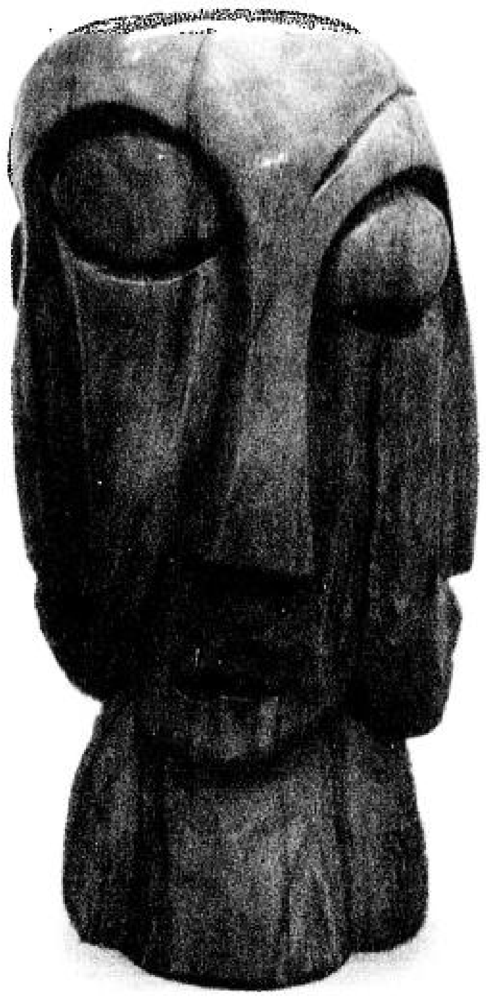
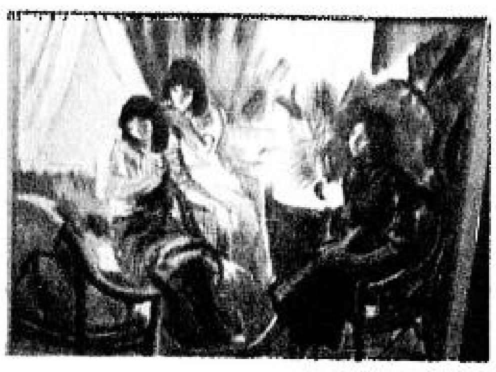
The fine arts of giving

(From page E1)

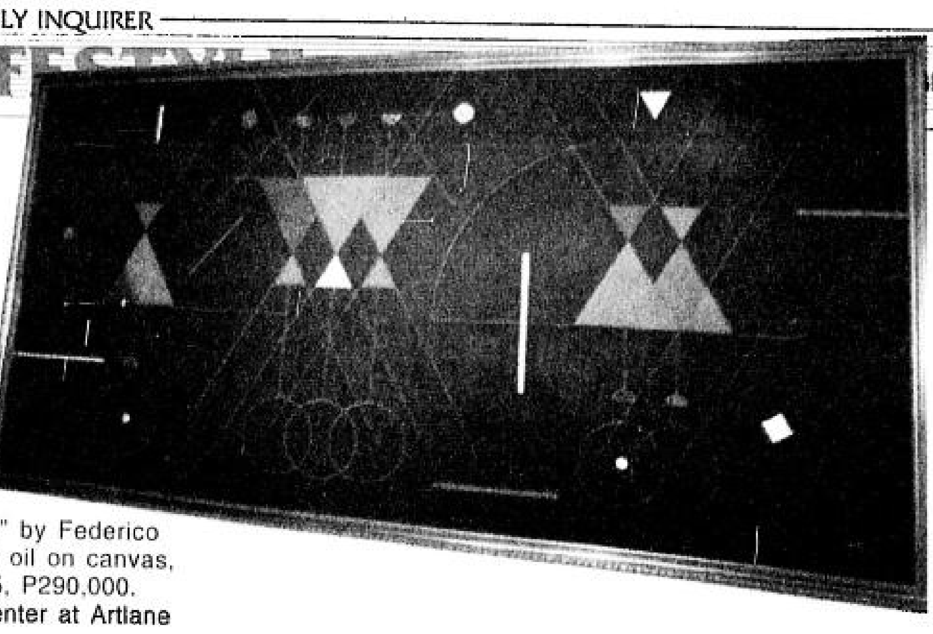


"MULTIFACES," by Inday Cadapan, *molave*, 17" height, 27" circumference, 1997, P180,000. Art Gallery Philippines at Artlane

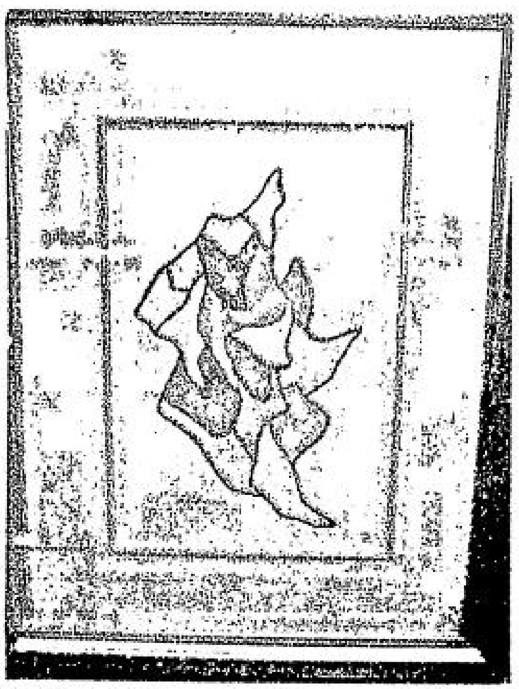
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA



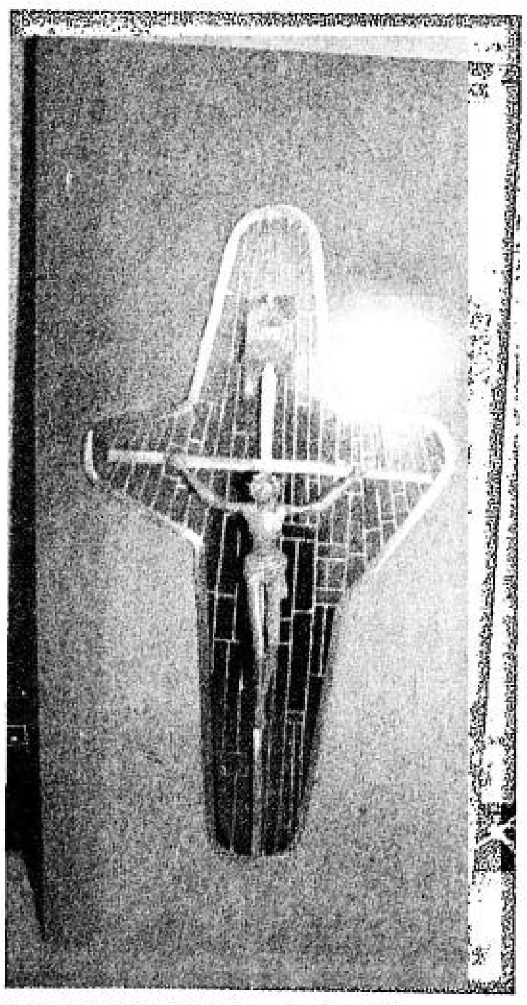
"TRES Marias," by Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, oil on canvas, 24" x 34", 1985, P290,000. Heritage Art Center at Artlane



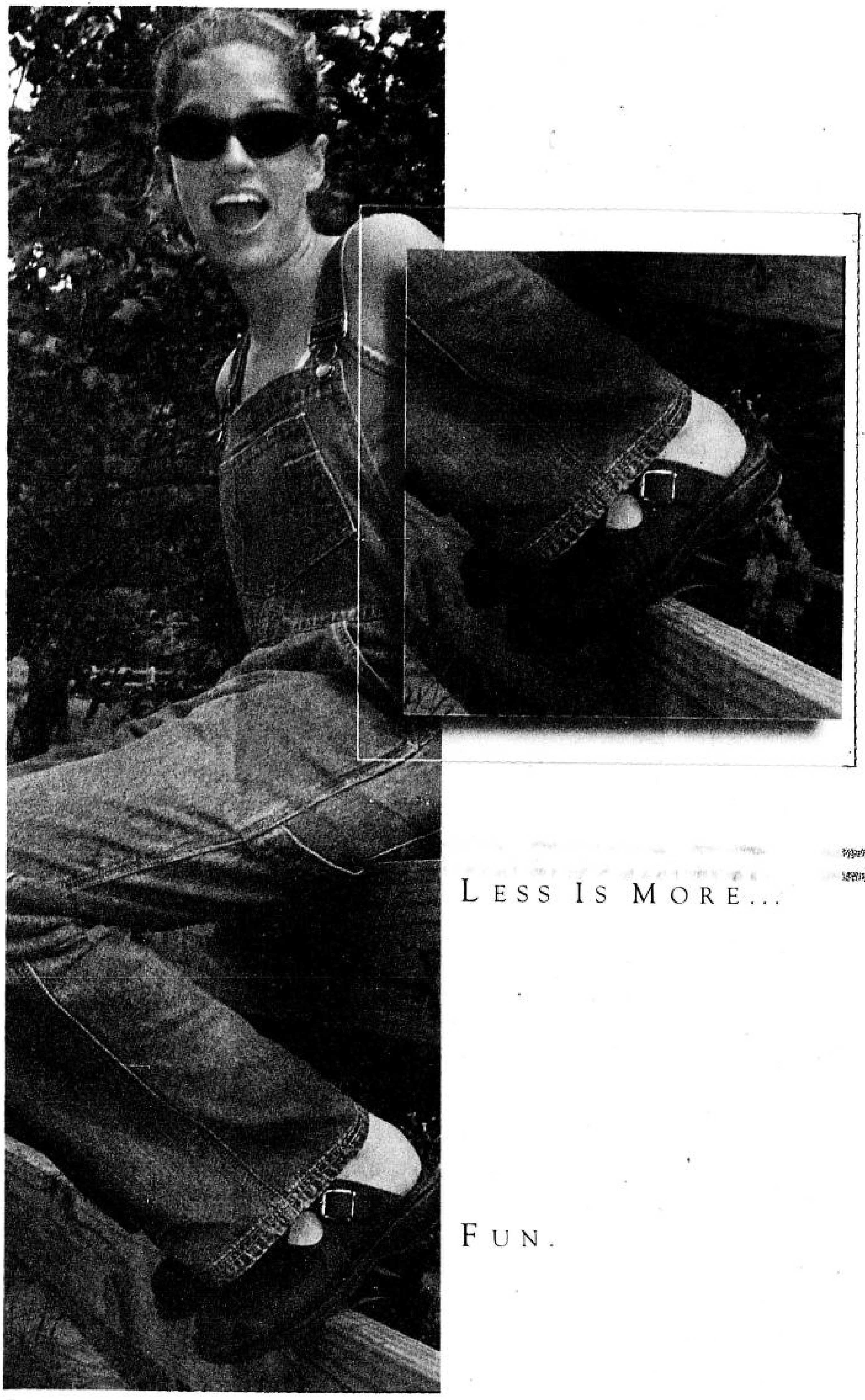
"UNTITLED," by Arturo Luz, oil on canvas, 48" x 96", 2001, P750,000. Heritage Art Center, The Artwalk in SM Megamall



"UNTITLED," by H.R. Ocampo, 17½" x 12", 1972, P130,000. Heritage Art Center at Artlane



"CRUCIFIX," by Eduardo Castrillo, bronze, 42.12" x 24.01", with built-in lighting in satin finish, 2000, P280,000. Heritage Art Center, Artlane



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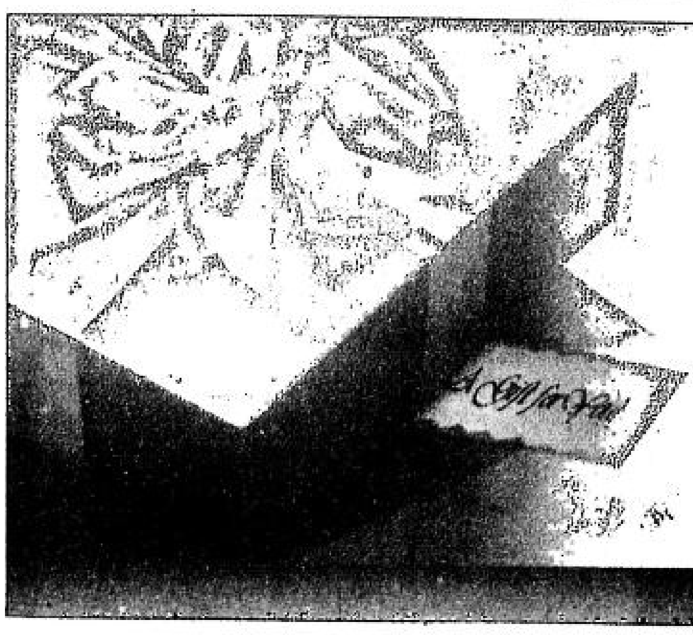

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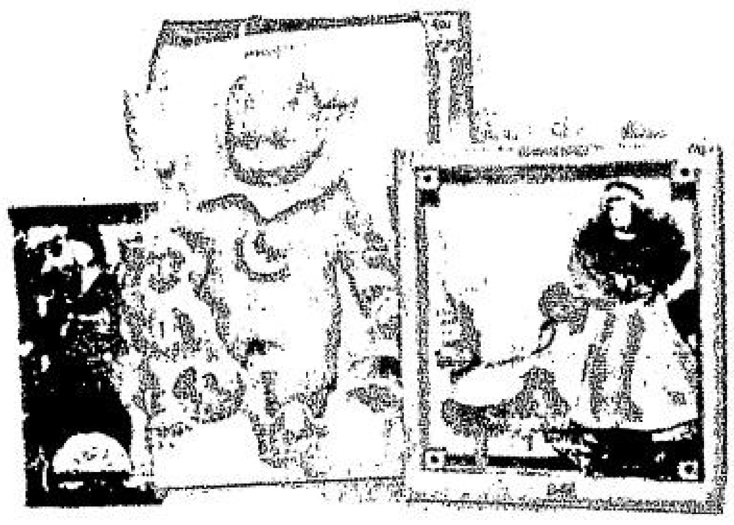
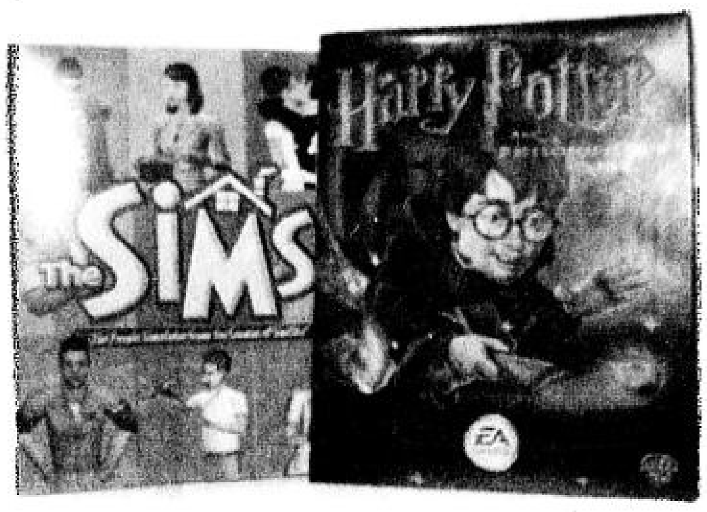


YOUNG girls will never say no to Barbie dolls. Japanese Barbie (left) is P4,100; Lilou baby (center), P4,995; and Barbie with real fur coat, P5,500. Kidz Station, Rockwell

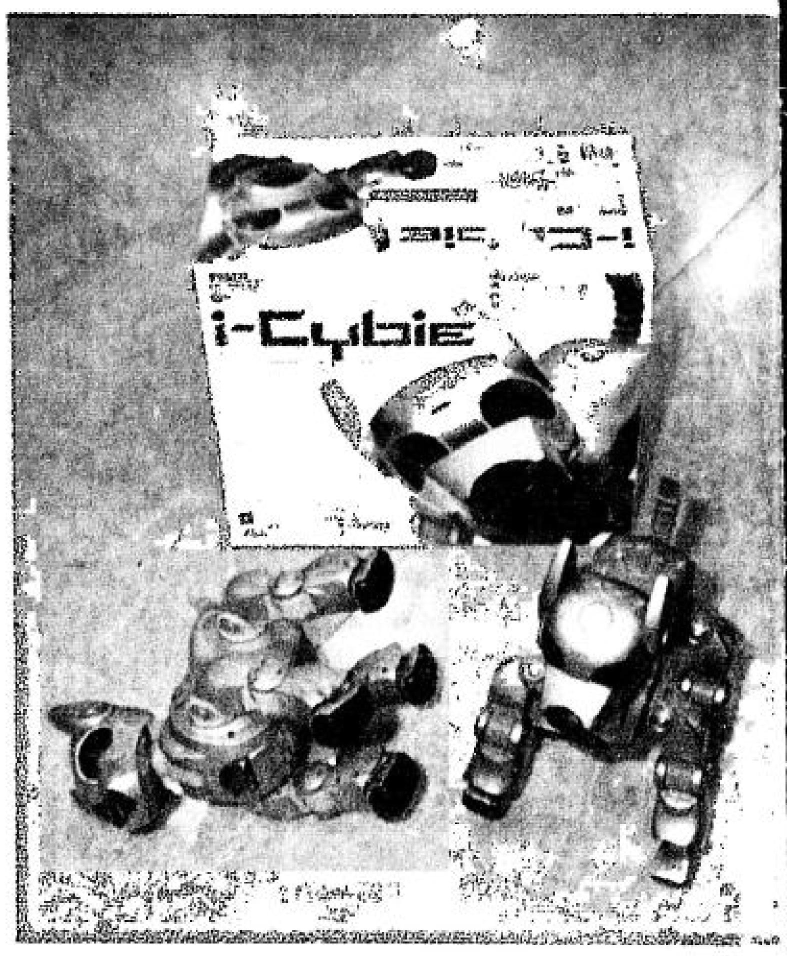


SIMULATOR and gameplay for computer PC, featuring Harry Potter, at P1,300, and Sims at P1,495. Data Blitz, Rockwell

Fabulous toys

PLAY Santa Claus to your tykes by giving them their favorite mini sports car, Japanese Barbie doll, or cyber dog. Yeah, you may spoil them, but the other possibility is inconceivable: you may spoil their Christmas, which, after all, is for our little angels.

Vangie Baga-Reyes

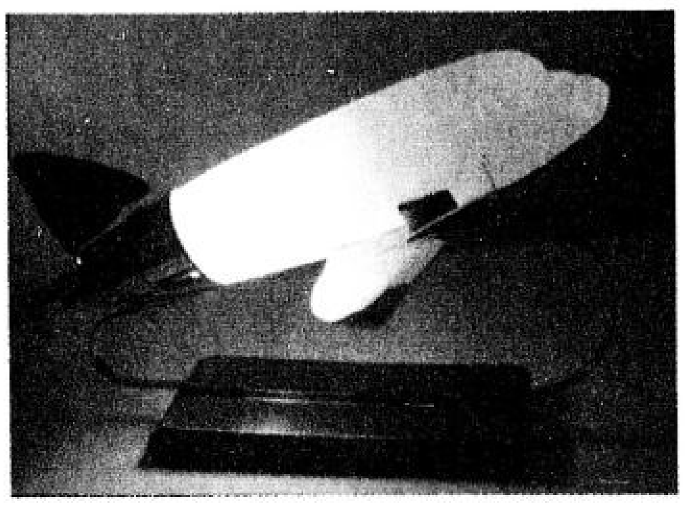


REMOTE control Robotic dog is priced at P15,000. Kidz Station, Rockwell

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON AND ROMY HOMILLADA

LET your children experience the joys of snorkeling. Grab them a pair of wet suit for P3,700; snorkel set for P1,940; lifevest made by Lego, P2,550, and fins, P1,500. Eureka Dive Inc., Rockwell

LET your children create dazzling images with this real laser technology. Laser One dances to the music of your choice. Available at Area Home Center for P6,637.



BRIGHTEN up your kid's dreary room with this stylish lampshade shaped like an airplane and hooked on a stainless-steel bar. Available at Area Home Store for P6,800

LET your son drool over this sturdy Racer Sport car worth P21,399. Kidz Station, Rockwell

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Trip to tranquility

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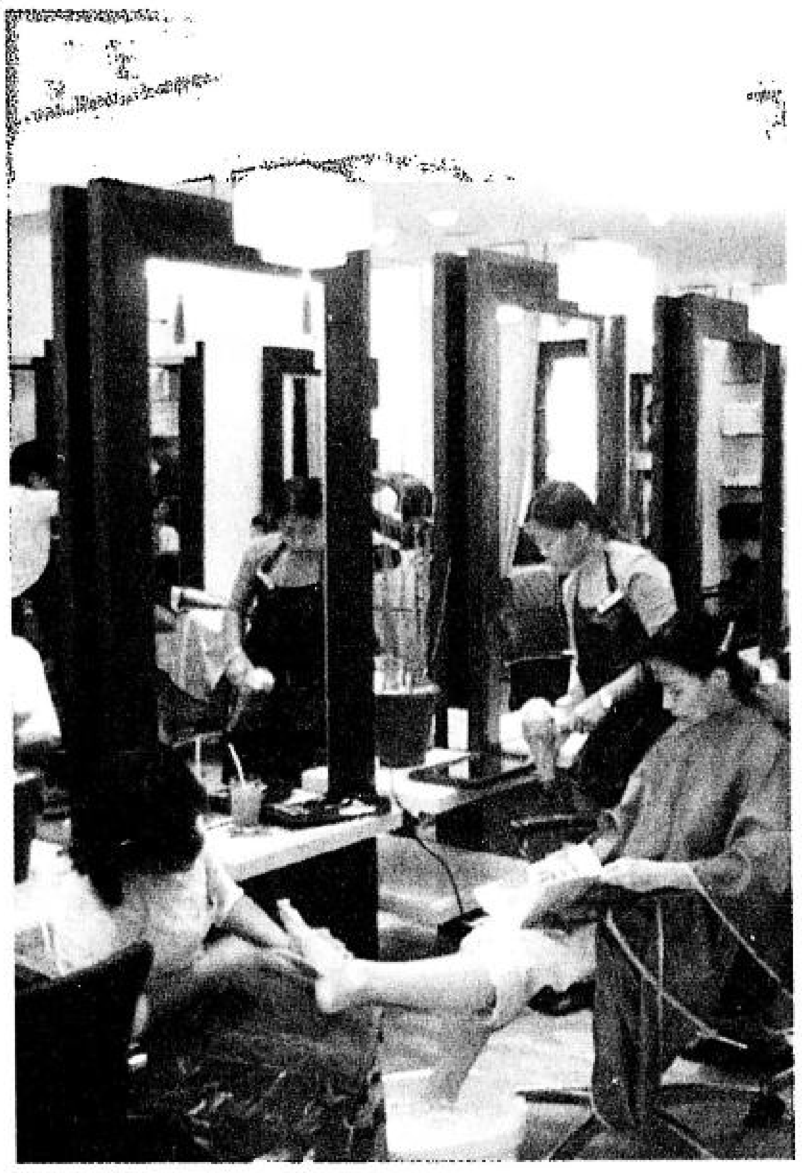
ADMIT it. Both men and women just love to be pampered. In the deepest recesses of your heart, after a tiring day, with weary bodies and sometimes battered spirits, you just want to sit back and relax.

What to give the wife who shuttles between office and home with a hundred-and-one things constantly buzzing in her head? Or the mother who trails after a couple of toddlers, shuttles the older kids to and from school, and budgets and cooks and what-have-you? What would the hubby or the boyfriend who drives through nightmare traffic day in and day out and sits through a gazillion meetings from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. appreciate?

An hour, three hours, half-a-day or, if you can manage it, an overnight stay for some pampering sessions can do miracles for the body and spirit of a loved one who is constantly harassed. And even if one is not stressed on a daily basis, there is no harm in being pampered once in a while. After all, within each of us lies a prince or princess just waiting to be spoiled.

Cathy Babao Guballa



VISUAL TREAT

PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

Simply walking into Emphasis (tel. 898-0818 to -19) is a visual treat in itself. Teng Roma, part owner of the tony salon in Rockwell, says Emphasis has just been picked by L'Oréal as one of the best salons in Asia. Rightly so.

With its sleek interiors reminiscent of tasteful Indonesian décor, you can forget that you are in Manila. The staff is efficient and friendly without being over-solicitous. Well-trained, they can rattle off the salon's services and explain them to you one by one without batting an eyelash. Their services range from basic haircut (done by a senior stylist, it will set you off by P650) to special facial (P1,000) to reflexology/foot massage (P350 for 30 minutes). The prices are clearly high-end, but worth every peso. Clients swear by the facials and massages given here and constantly come back for more.

MAN KIND

Pampering packages for the man in your life are reasonably priced for the kind of excellent service they provide. Haircut is at P500, a full-body massage at P850/hour. If he prefers to just have his scalp and back massaged, then that will only set him off by P550 for a one-hour session.

INDULGE

The Indulgence Package at Discovery Suites provides couples with the following treats: one-bedroom suite that includes living, dining and kitchen areas apart from the bed and bath; a Swedish massage or an aromatherapy facial or a salt scrub within the comfort of your own suite; ffet breakfast for two at Café Berrio; free use of pool and facilities at a state-of-the-art health club. Indulgence Package available for local residents at P4,200, which is good for two persons.

There are other pampering packages, both for men and women available at the Spa to suit various budgets and time constraints. The foot reflexology sessions are the favorite of many; they are guaranteed to blow away whatever stress is lodged in the deepest core of your body. Should you wish to bring your whole brood, special packages for two-bedroom and three-bedroom suites are available as well.

Discovery Suites is in the Ortigas business district across the Asian Development Bank. Call 635-2222.

BALI HIGH

You don't have to fly to Bali to experience the world-famous Balinese system of spiritual, mental and physical rituals for decompressing. All you need to do is motor to the Bali Wellness and Spa Center in Las Piñas City (tel. 800-3880/3816).

The Javanese Lulur, which is the "queen of all treatments," is an exfoliation scrub and softening elixir with rice spices and yogurt; it includes a massage and soaking in a flower-filled tub scented with ylang-ylang oil. Another specialty is the Mandi Susu bath wherein you are immersed in a tub of cloudy, foaming milk that guarantees milky-soft skin afterward.

Experience the Pace of Bali, a 3½-hour package for P2,500 that will treat you to a full-body aromatherapy massage that assists in restoring health and vitality by easing muscular tension; a body scrub wherein you can choose from *pandan* or cinnamon (sounds good enough to eat!) that takes away dirt, dead skin cells and makes your skin soft and fragrant; a royal foot spa; a manicure pedicure; plus one day use of the gym.

Now, that sounds like major pampering with value for money. Should you wish to go a step further, add in a traditional Javanese facial plus a hair spa with neck and shoulder massage, then go for the six-hour Tranquility Escape package that will cost you P5,000 for a full range in the ultimate Javanese treatment.

Lest we forget the men, this spa also has an aptly called Gentlemen's Voyage of Peace, which for 3½ hours will give the man in your life a purifying facial designed to reduce roughness followed by a moisturizing mask rich in botanicals to reduce those razor burn and damage caused by exposure to the elements (and stress perhaps?); a Balinese therapeutic massage; a Royal Foot spa; a manicure and pedicure; plus one day use of the gym.

DEC GENTXT gigguide

movies
• GENTXT Movie Night " Rock Star"
Date : December 08
Time : 8:00 pm
Venue: Glorietta 4 THX Cinema 3

events
• GENTXT Billiards Night featuring "The Groove"
Date : December 04
Time : 7:00 pm
Venue: Gameworx, Festival Mall
• M2M Live!
Date : December 07
Time : 6:00 pm
Venue: World Trade Centre, Manila
• "The Company" Live
Date : December 14
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue: Summit Bar, Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao
• Hard Rock Concert Series
Date : December 12 (South Border)
December 20 (FreeStyle)
December 29 (Side A)
Time : 9:30 pm
Venue: Hard Rock Café, Glorietta 3

parties
• StreetLife Re-Opening Party
Date : December 12
Time : 7:30 pm
Venue : Glorietta 2
• GENTXT Winter Rush
Date : December 15
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue : Where Else, Hotel Inter-Continental
• GRILLA Christmas Party
Date : December 19
Time : 8:00 pm
Venue : Grilla, Libis
• Skybox 1st Anniversary Year-end Party
Date : December 28
Time : 9:00 pm
Venue : Skybox Restaurant & Bar, Baguio

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Soothing (but spectacular) Stockholm

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO

IT doesn't take long for one to appreciate the unique personality of Stockholm.

As one saunters through the centuries-old cobblestone walks, watches the seagulls gracefully scouring the lakeside, smiles back at the friendly people leisurely sipping espressos in the outdoor cafés, or simply enjoys the cool autumn breeze in the city's many parks and gardens, one discovers a balm for one's frayed nerves.

It was one of the rare times we enjoyed our abnormal sleeping patterns. Afflicted by jet lag, we woke before 5 a.m. and, as the veil of dawn was lifted, sat by our hotel window and enjoyed the beautiful scenery outside. Later in the day, the last rays of twilight provided us a quite different treat—cascading colors on the same landscape. Ah, truly an emotionally soothing balm.

There are so many things to do in Stockholm. One can wander along the quaysides, where each part of the city looks across water at another part. One can have lunch in one of the exotic restaurants in the old city or picnic in the vast park of Djurgarden, and imagine oneself with the 13th-century Swedes as one loses one's way in the narrow, cobblestone streets of Gamla Stan (Old Town). In the afternoon, one can take a leisurely stroll past the Royal Palace and the Opera and then cap the walking tour with a cup of fine cappuccino at the veranda of the 18th-century Grand Hotel.

Sweden's capital

Founded in the middle of the 13th century, Stockholm has been Sweden's capital since 1436. It is a clean city where one would have to walk more than a mile to find a single piece of trash. No, environmental pollution does not seem to be a problem here. One can stand in the middle of the street for a full hour and not be bothered by any smell of pollution in the air. The water in the rivers and lakes, which are abundant in the city, is clean enough for one to fish salmon from or enjoy a good summer swim in, or, in some parts, even drink.

The city teems with attractions and sights, from palaces and parks to museums and art-laden subway stations. And everywhere, the stressed traveler can find relief.

Much of what used to be private gardens such as the Humlegarden and Kungstragarden are open to the public. One will certainly admire the elegance of these gardens, with the manicured greenery and refreshing fountains.

Colors come into play as the veil of dawn is lifted, and then, in the twilight, merge into delicate hues

Grand and awesome is the Djurgarden, a royal hunting ground until the 18th century. One can picnic in its vast grounds or enjoy lunch in one of its beautiful, all-glass restaurants that look like glass sculptures in the middle of a forest.

DOWNTOWN fountains

We came to Stockholm as recipients of a continuing medical education grant from AstraZeneca Philippines to attend the annual congress of the European Society of Cardiology. Our delegation consisted of heart specialists from various parts of the Philippines—Greg Patacsil, Nelson Abelardo, Lito Durante, Ric Rangel, Benjie Encarnacion, Jim Pacifico, Vic Guanzon, Pat Palmes and myself.

We took KL 880 of the KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines from Manila to Amsterdam (stopping at Bangkok), then KL 1109 to Stockholm. The 10 p.m. departure from Manila was quite convenient. We had time to finish all our appointments for the day. I was in my clinic at the Manila Doctors' Hospital until 7 p.m., ate dinner with my family, and got to the airport with time to spare.

It was a long trip but the excellent service of the friendly cabin crew made it enjoyable. The meals served were a gastronomic delight. That, and sipping a glass of fine wine while watching Bruce Willis and Julia Roberts in the in-flight movie, moved me to tell myself, "This is the life!"

City sights

A lot of our time was spent attending the sessions at the congress venue. Our travel coordinators, Dawn Aberilla and Efren Mazo, made sure we did that. But they also organized a well-prepared itinerary to make sure that we had a chance to enjoy the city during the lunch breaks and in the evenings. The sun was up until close to 9 p.m. so we had a few hours after the last afternoon session to see the sights.

The inner city of Stockholm is built upon 14 islands connected by more than 50 bridges. The whole Stockholm archipelago consists of over 24,000 islands. From the air, the islands, with the intricate network of lakes, canals and rivulets, were a sight to behold. This is why many have come to call Stockholm the Venice of the Nordic region. Oh, but Venice is Venice, and Stockholm is Stockholm, with its unique personality.

Katja, our Swedish-German tour guide, was charming and well informed and made us feel like we knew Stockholm by heart. The city was mentioned in the chronicles for the first time in 1252. A man named Birger Jarl built a fort on the inlet, through which Lake Malaren flows into the Salt Sea. Dwellings grew out from what is now known as Gamla Stan onto the islands to the north and south. Today, the greater Stockholm area has close to two million residents.

Relics of Stockholm's early history as a town in the 13th century are still found on Stadsholmen, Gamla Stan's largest island. The whole island is a showcase of the country's historical heritage.

Gamla Stan may well be the Intramuros of Stockholm, only better maintained. Here one finds the Royal Palace, the symbol of Sweden's era as a great power in the 17th and early 18th centuries. The majestic buildings surrounding the Royal Palace bespeak Stockholm's glorious, powerful past. Now the area is bustling with souvenir shops, restaurants, churches and museums, but its historical grandeur is well preserved.

A must-see in Stockholm is the Vasa Museum that houses the Vasa, the biggest royal warship in its time and built on the whim of the Swedish king to augment his fighting force against Poland. So irrationally capricious was its design—against the advice and better judgment of the ones who constructed it—that it was too heavy at the top, making it very unstable on water. It sank barely a mile after sailing from the Stockholm harbor in 1622. Many call it "the Titanic of Stockholm" and, in 1961, a team commissioned by the government painstakingly raised it and restored it completely, including the bright-colored sculptures adorning it.

Gastronomic treat

Eating out in Stockholm was always a gastronomic treat. (According to Katja and Storkis, our driver, even the cooks at the small stands on sidewalks and in parks fry their burgers and hot dogs with passionate creativity and expertise.)

Swedish cuisine titillates even the most delicate palate with its combination of rural tasty dishes and the so-called crossover international cuisine served so artistically that one is moved to admire the dish for a minute or two before starting to eat.

We indulged ourselves in several "must-eat" places.

Lunch at Den Gyldene Freden (The Golden Peace) restaurant—where the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Prizes, meets regularly—was quite an experience. It's an old restaurant opened in 1722 and which is close to the Royal Palace in Gamla Stan. You descend several flights of stairs to what looks like a dungeon similar to the tunnels of our Corregidor. But far from being eerie, the place exudes a terrific ambience with its antique chandeliers and furniture. The ambience was matched by an excellently prepared cod which literally melted in the mouth.

We tried the smorgasbord at the famous Grand Hotel, reputed to be one of the oldest and best hotels in the world. The veranda restaurant offers an excellent view of the bay and the Royal Palace atop the hill. We had dinner as the sun gradually faded from the horizon and cast a golden glow on the water. Although the smorgasbord was more palate-blanching than indulging, the ambience more than made up for it.

We had lunch at a restaurant within the Djurgarden. (Its name eludes my memory, but I believe it is Rosadel's, or something that sounds like it.) The restaurant sits in the middle of a clearing in an elevated part of the forest overlooking Lake Malaren and the Stockholm harbor. It's an all-glass structure, that allows one to lose oneself in the abundance of greenery, flora and fauna. It does not matter anymore what we ate because we fed all our senses with the wonderful panorama of nature surrounding us. Elegant seagulls and other birds flew overhead and occasionally landed on the glass roof, curiously peeking at what intruders to their domain were eating.

Another great place where we had dinner together with about 1,000 delegates to the convention was the Blue Banquet Hall of the Stockholm Town Hall. This is not the name of a restaurant but the place where the parliamentarians and other locally elected officials hold office. It is one of the architectural landmarks overlooking Lake Malaren and it is used for special occasions, such as the annual grand banquet for all Nobel Prize winners and more than 1,000 guests.

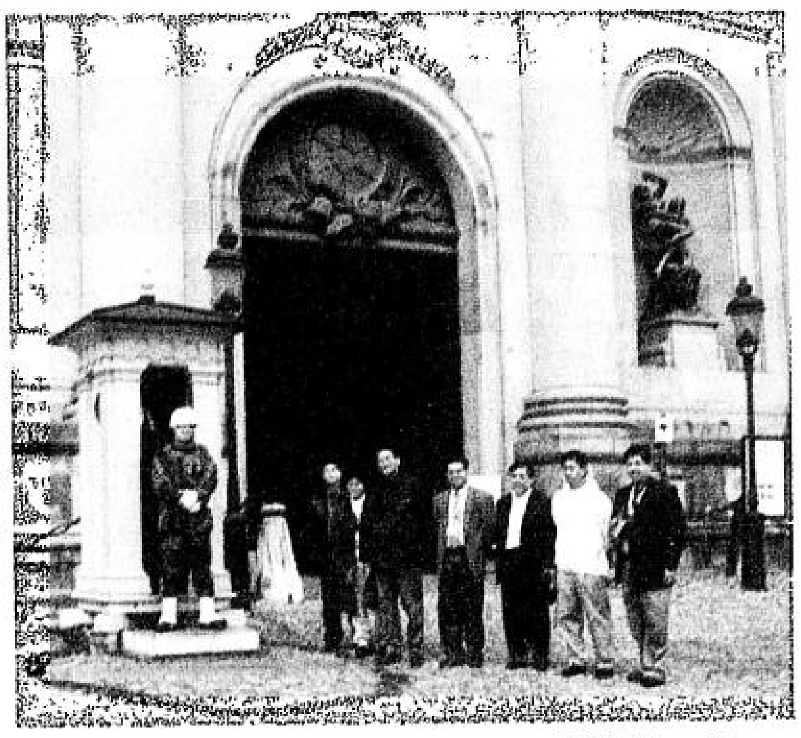
They served us the same menu served during the last Nobel banquet, and we could not help but imagine ourselves hobnobbing with all the scientists, peacemakers and literary giants awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize.

On the eve of our departure, we had dinner at Ristorante Martini. It was my birthday that day and the group headed by Nelson, Dawn and Efren had secretly conspired to give me a surprise treat. They even had a mini-firework instead of an ordinary candle on the cake, and my lungs worked double-time when I tried to blow out the light. The beautiful Oreforr crystal clock the group gave me as a birthday gift will always remind me of that wonderful dinner and evening with my friends.

Of course, a few days in Stockholm was not enough. We kept hoping our tight schedule could allow us to stay longer. We savored every ray of the Nordic sun until it gradually transformed itself in a rare prism of colors and shades before fading out. But even after sunset, there seemed to be still enough light to almost see the flowers grow and blossom in the night!

The wondrous ambience of this beautiful city was enough to conjure up a spectrum of moods from romantic to nostalgic, making us want to rush home and take our loved ones back… back to Stockholm.

Dr. Rafael R. Castillo writes "Medical Files," a weekly column in the Health & Science Section of the Inquirer. For feedback, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com



SUNSET on the marina (top); sentinel at the Royal Palace making sure that no one gets into the black circle

POCKET of Nordic calm

PHOTOS BY DAWN ABERILLA AND EFREN MAZO

TRAVEL BRIEFS

No flight diversions

NORTHWEST Airlines announces that it will not divert any of its flights from Manila to Clark Field in Pampanga in the course of the runway repair work at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The departure and arrival schedules of Northwest flights are not affected by the daily runway closure between 11:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. until Jan. 15.

None of the airline's flights will be affected when the Naia keeps the runway closed for another hour until 6 a.m. during the period Jan. 16-June 30.

The airline says that in any unforeseen event that may affect the arrival times of its flights, it will make the necessary arrangements for its aircraft to maintain operations at the Naia I.

Ski and snow

ASIANA Airlines is offering a ski-and-snow tour in Korea for $627.

The 4-day/3-night package combines shopping, a winter experience and the all-new experience of learning to ski. It includes airfare, super deluxe hotel accommodations in Seoul, English- or Mandarin-speaking tour guides, entrance to Big 5 and ride ticket to Everland theme park, city and shopping tours, ski suits, equipment and lessons, and an overnight stay at either the Hyundai Sungwoo or the YongPyong Dragon Valley Ski Resorts.

For inquiries and bookings, call 892-5681 to 88 or 892-5696 to 98.

5-day tour

A GROUP is leaving for Thailand on Dec. 14 for a 5-day tour highlighted by a whole-day excursion to the famous Nong Nooch Tropical Garden and Resorts and the markets of Bangkok for Christmas shopping. Pattaya, a city of resorts, shows and also good shopping, is included.

Nong Nooch, the largest palm garden in the world, also showcases orchids, cycads, bromeliads, rhapis palms, bougainvillea, heliconia, canna, cacti and other succulents.

The package also includes a tour of the Grand Palace complex, one of the most beautiful sites in Asia. For inquiries, call Adam's Express Travel at 521-1638/51.

Holiday treats

Astoria Plaza at J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue) in the Ortigas Business District is offering two special Christmas party packages for companies and individuals who would rather leave everything to professionals.

The all-suite, serviced apartment building has nine function rooms, the biggest of which can accommodate as much as 150 guests.

Package 1 is for 30 persons at P405++ to P595++ per person. Package 2 is for 50 persons at P455++ to P645++ per person, and includes an overnight stay in a one-bedroom suite for two persons.

For inquiries, call 687-1111.

* * *

AT THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza, you can discover the many ways that make the hotel by the bay "Wonderful on Weekends."

Until Jan. 15, take two nights or two rooms and get the third night or room free at a no-frills rate of P2,500 net for a superior room for an overnight stay (includes service charge and government tax).

This package is applicable to local residents and expatriates with alien certificates of residency (ACR), and subject to availability as well as other conditions. For reservations, call 832-6991 to 95 or 551-5555; fax to 832-6996; or e-mail reservations@westinmanila.com.

Shop and help poor but deserving scholars

WOULD you like to get your Christmas shopping done and do a good deed at the same time?

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Philexport, with Toyota and Oceanic, have provided a place where you can do just that in "The Season's Best Bazaar" on Dec. 7, 8 and 9 at the Urban Bank Plaza, Makati.

The "Season's Best Bazaar," which will be set up like an authentic French market with tents and canopies, park benches and street lights, will have 100 booths offering a variety of products, such as local and imported decorative items, furniture, clothing, shoes, audio products, toys and collectibles (the kids will love those Harry Potter collectibles and toys from Barbie, Sesame Street, Mattel, Cosco and Fisher Price), gift items, books, accessories, fresh fruits and wines, and Christmas goodies from The Manila Hotel.

By shopping at the bazaar, you help support the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation and the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Scholarship Fund that aims to send poor but deserving scholars to college.

You can even help make a future entrepreneur. One of the features of the bazaar will be a "Young Entrepreneur's Corner" where the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation will sponsor five young entrepreneurs from school-based business organizations and give them a venue to promote and sell their products.

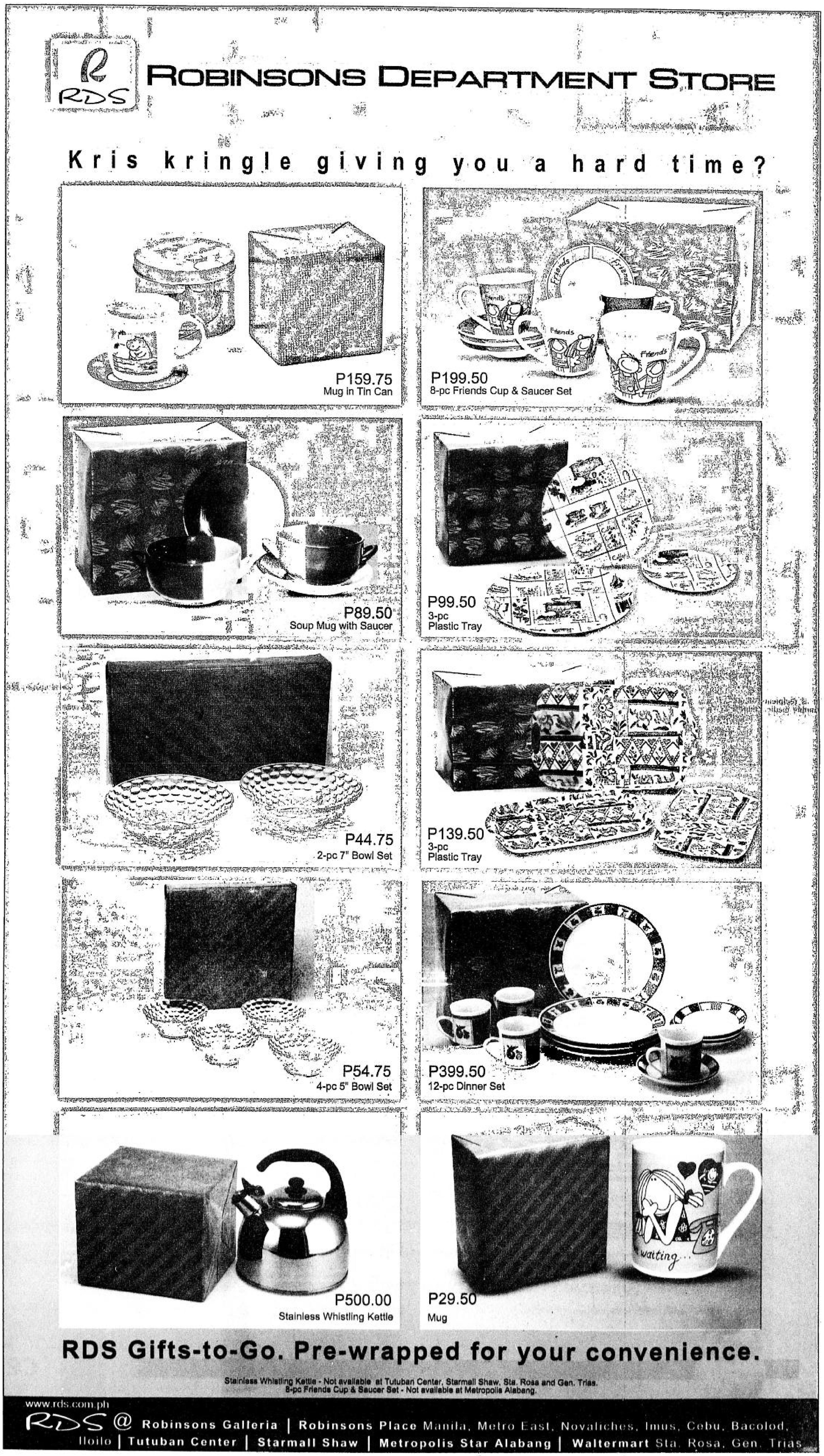
There will be food booths located at the 9/F patio. Just like the bazaar, the food booths will offer a wide variety of choices, from Mongolian BBQ to Chinese dimsum, from pearl shakes to coffee. The bazaar will also feature a French wine- and cheese-tasting session courtesy of Alliance Franchise.

To make your shopping experience more pleasant, bazaar organizers will put up gift-wrapping counters, with baggers to help you carry your packages. And you won't have to worry about your car either: multi-level parking and 24-hour security will take care of that. The venue is air-conditioned for your maximum comfort. Major credit cards are accepted.

Raffle draws will also be held. The daily grand prize will be a three-day, two-night accommodation at Boracay's Pink Patio resort. Special prizes include accommodations for two at Days Inn Pampanga, Tagaytay and Batangas, plus gift packs from REM, Smart and Pancake House.

The "Season's Best Bazaar" will open on Dec. 7 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. to be graced by PCCI president Miguel Varela, Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation chair Alberto Fenix Jr; Oceanic GM Jacqueline Hess, and Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation president Anna Marie Periquet.

Call the foundation secretariat at 894-4774 or 810-9652.


ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

Kris kringle giving you a hard time?

P159.75
Mug in Tin Can

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8-pc Friends Cup & Saucer Set

P89.50
Soup Mug with Saucer

P99.50
3-pc
Plastic Tray

P44.75
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Plastic Tray

P54.75
4-pc 5" Bowl Set

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12-pc Dinner Set

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Stainless Whistling Kettle

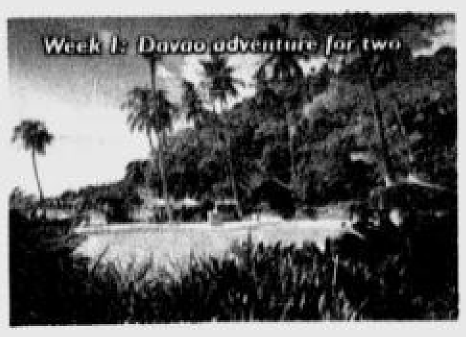
P29.50
Mug

RDS Gifts-to-Go. Pre-wrapped for your convenience.

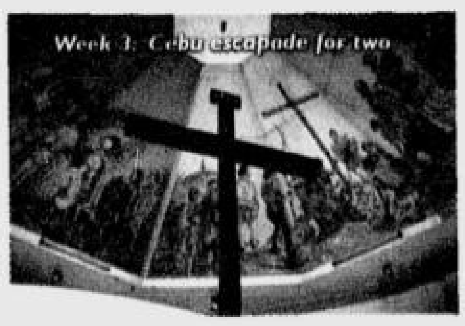
Stainless Whistling Kettle - Not available at Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.
8-pc Friends Cup & Saucer Set - Not available at Metropolis Alabang.

www.rds.com.ph
RDS @ Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Place Manila, Metro East, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias

TUNE IN...TEXT IN...WIN!


Week 1: Davao adventure for two

Week 2: Boracay getaway for two


Week 3: Cebu escapade for two

Week 4: Palawan vacation for two

Globe
HANDYPHONE

Text Away to Getaway!

Win in the weekly draw!

Win in the grand draw!

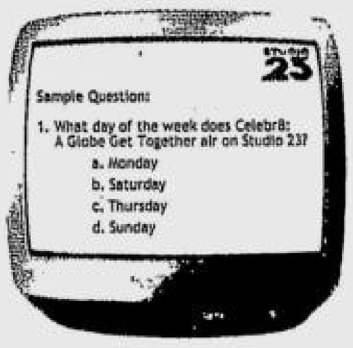
Ford Expedition for family outings!
Trip for 4 to Australia courtesy of
CATHAY PACIFIC
Ford Explorer Sport Trac for road trips with friends!

Here's how you can join:

Step 1: Watch Celebr8 on Studio23, Thursday, December 6 at 9pm.

celebr8
A Globe Get-Together

Step 2: Wait for the four multiple-choice trivia questions that will be flashed at random during the show.

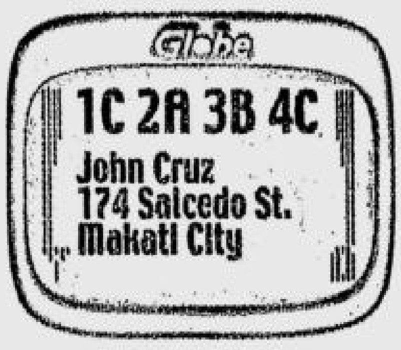


Sample Question:

1. What day of the week does Celebr8: A Globe Get Together air on Studio 23?
   a. Monday
   b. Saturday
   c. Thursday
   d. Sunday

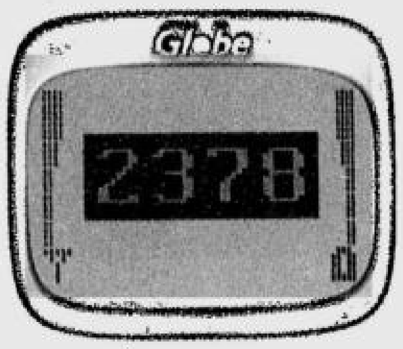
Step 3: Key-in your answer to all four (4) questions, along with your name and address. Follow the format shown below.

Format sample: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address



1C 2A 3B 4C
John Cruz
174 Salcedo St.
Makati City

Step 4: Send your complete set of answers to 2378. The hosts will give you the signal when to start texting in your answers. You qualify for the weekly and grand draw for each text message you send with the correct set of answers.



2378

What else you need to know:

How many times can I send an entry?

You may text in your correct answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text message, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you." .Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of ₱10.00. Watch all four shows and send in as many as 80 correct entries.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answers to all four (4) questions, in each show, are correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the answers with the correct sequence and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

Who will qualify for the weekly and grand draw?

All Globe Handyphone subscribers who texted in the correct answer are qualified in the weekly and grand draws which will be conducted via an Electronic Draw. If you qualify, your Globe Handyphone number will be stored in the database of correct and valid entries and will be included in the Electronic Draw.

Schedule for texting in entries:

For the weekly draw, you may text in your correct answers for each episode until the following day. For the grand draw, you may text in your correct answers until December 11. All correct non-winning entries from the weekly draws are automatically qualified in the grand draw.

celebr8
A Globe Get-Together

See posters and flyers for more details.

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SUNDAY,
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Sunday LIF

Wan'na know the "f" word ?
December 8, 2001 at The Fort

GNOMES stool and tables by Philippe Starck, P9,610 each, at Area Home Store, Rockwell, Makati

ROMY HOMILLADA

JIM PUNZALAN

ABACA angel, P650, The Barnyard in Megamall

Christmas is as much a time for Philippe Starck and Antonio Citterio as for Santa Claus

Showhouse winners

JUST hear those sleigh bells jingling... They're gaining on us. Whether you take a low-key approach to the holidays or throw yourself into them full throttle, Christmas always looms large. It is both irresistible and intimidating, like that 10-ft spruce you'd love to buy but

SHOWHOUSE/ p.F2

DOME wine cage, P8,800, The Barnyard

JIM PUNZALAN

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Per person on twin sharing basis
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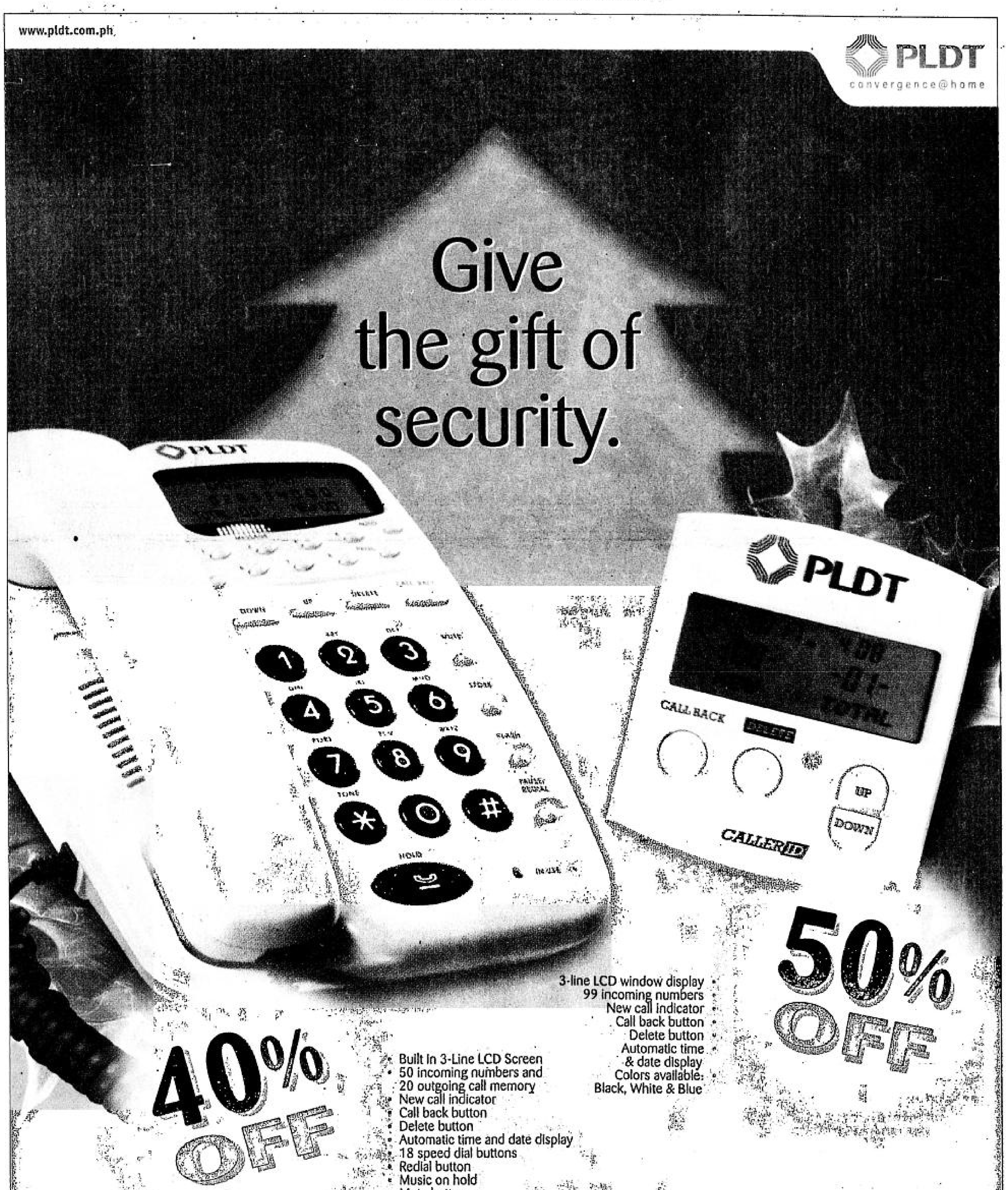

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- Colors available: Black & White

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- New call indicator
- Call back button
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Get a Caller ID adjunct unit for only P375* and a Caller ID handset for only P995*!

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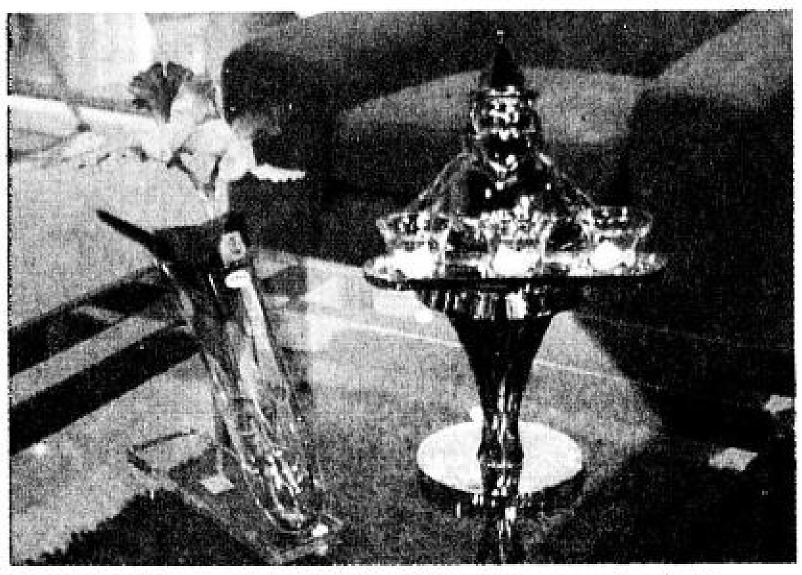


BORDEAUX vase slanted, P12,455, and Santa votive holder, P8,770; Area Rockwell ROMY HOMILLADA

MOBIL (mobile chest of drawers) by Antonio Citterio, P41,100, and trash can, P3,000; Area Rockwell ROMY HOMILLADA

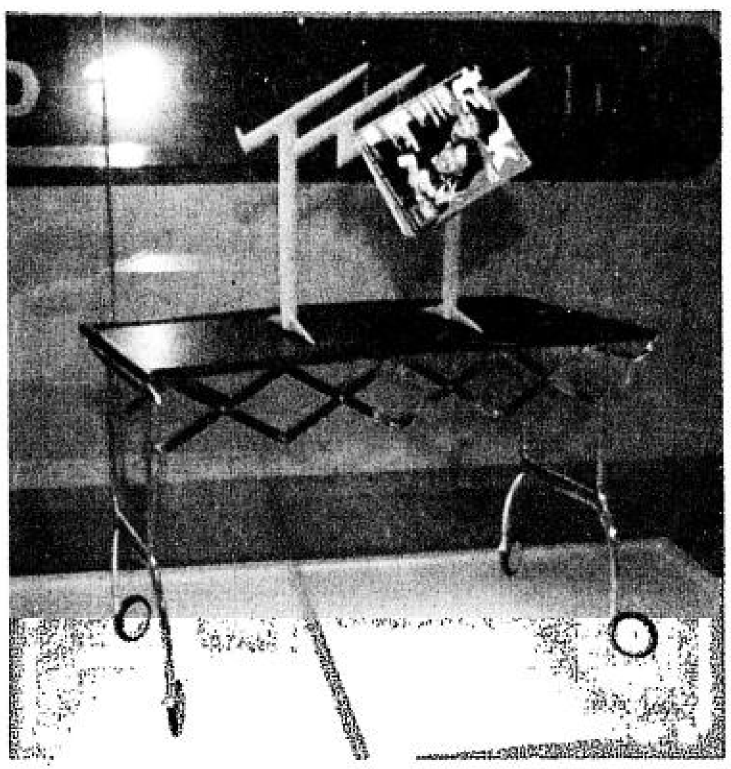
Showhouse winners

(From page F1)

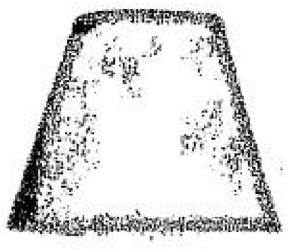
couldn't imagine decorating.

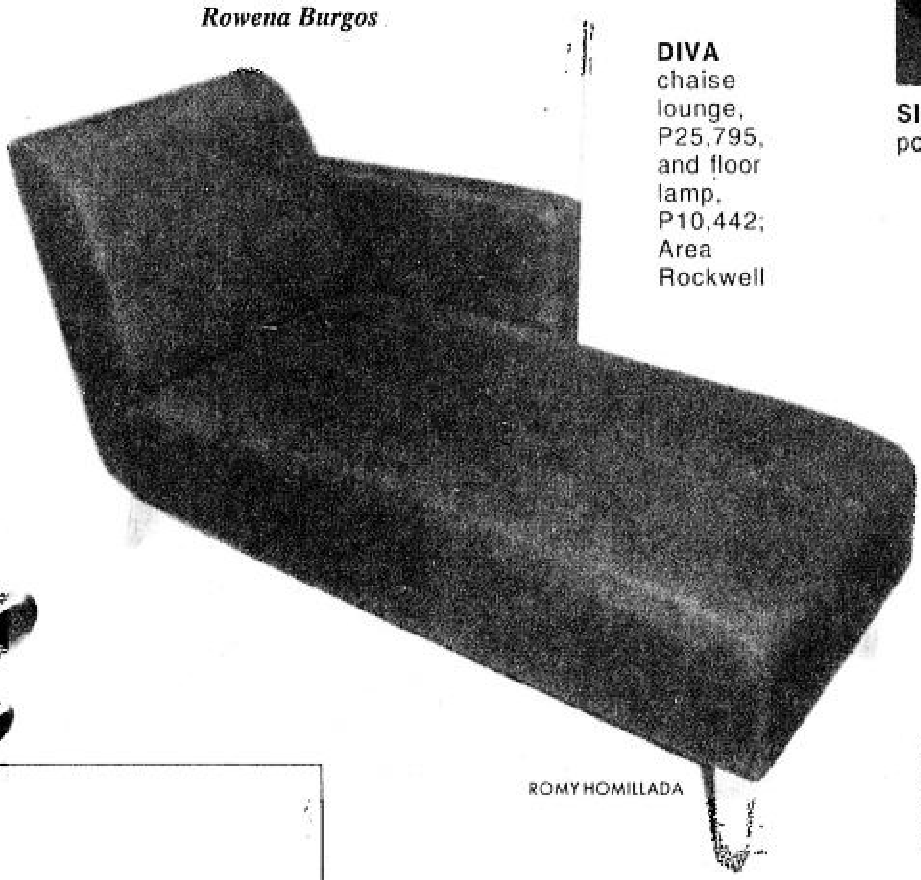
Here are a few ideas on the ultimate seasonal indulgence. Experience a heightened sense of style through these fabulous home accessories and furnishings.

Rowena Burgos



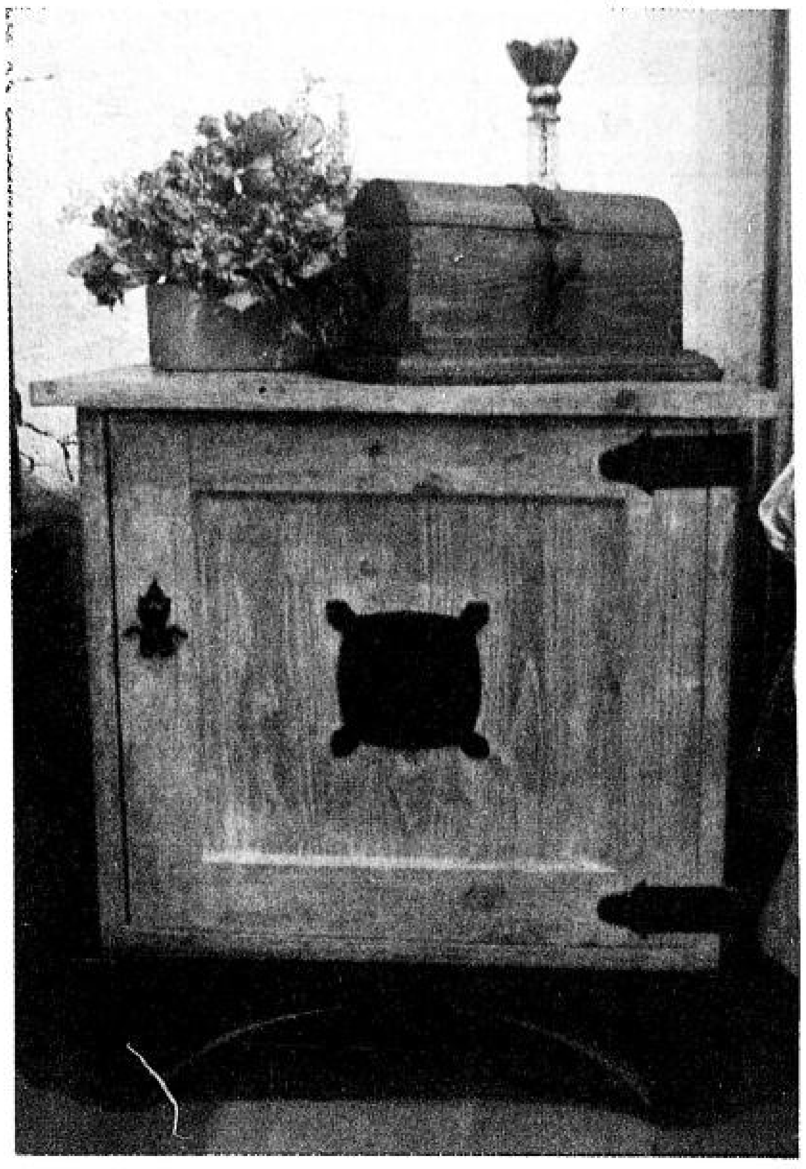
BATTISTA (small folding table) by Antonio Citterio, P37,540, and magazine rack, P5,329; Area Rockwell ROMY HOMILLADA



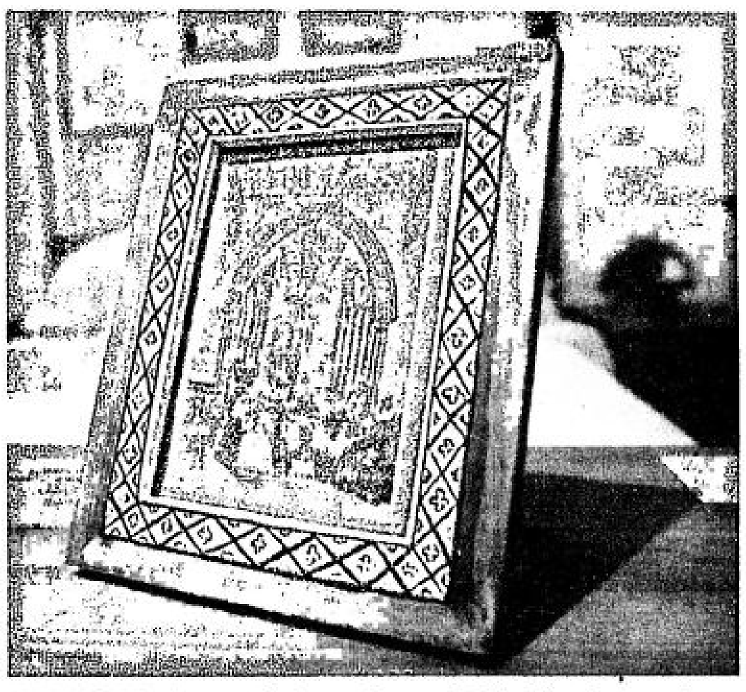


DIVA chaise lounge, P25,795, and floor lamp, P10,442; Area Rockwell

ROMY HOMILLADA



SIDE table, P9,500, with small chest box, P3,500; and terra-cotta pot with wheat grass, P690; The Barnyard JIM PUNZALAN



JIM PUNZALAN

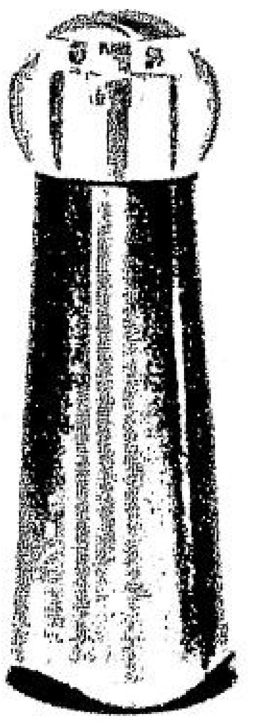
AMERICAN pinewood picture frame, P561; The Barnyard

RUST-PROOF stainless-steel cutlery worth P7,025. Available at Area Home Store

Kitchen keepers

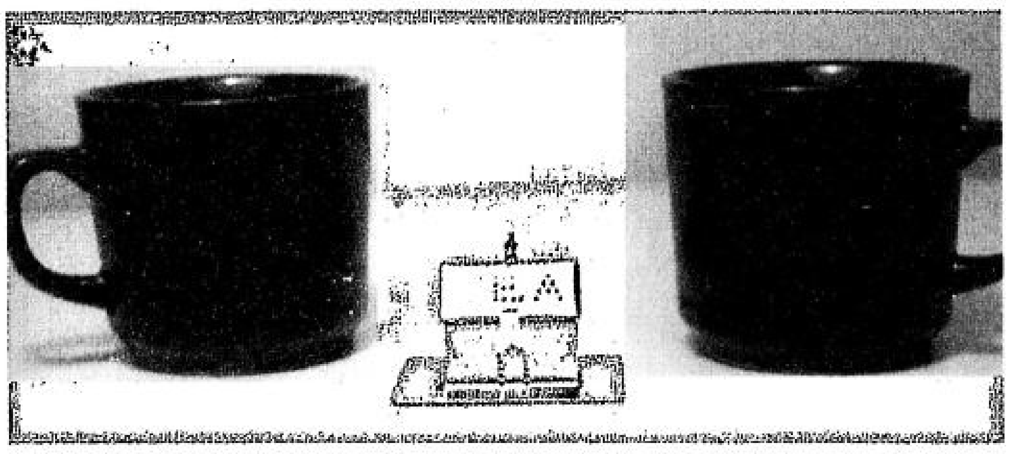
WHAT to give a foodie friend? There's a diverse array of kitchen tools to consider. You may consider cutlery, Teflon cookware set, fondue set, tea kettle, chafing dish and what-have-you. Also stylish peppermill, elegant glassware and exquisite platter. There are also divine collectibles made of sterling silver and stainless steel, which, however expensive, spell out lasting use because they never rust.

VBR



HOT and stylish stainless-steel peppermills worth P5,690 (big) and P3,400; Rockwell

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



LILLIPUTIAN tea infuser shaped like a house, P250. Available at Area Home Store

CHIC AND SWEET. This purple-colored French wine Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1997 is priced at P14,058. Cork Wine Cellar and Grill at Power-Plant, Rockwell Center

SMOOTH AND ELEGANT. California Red Wine Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Reserved 1995 is a full-bodied dry wine. It's worth P32,795. Cork Wine Cellar and Grill, Rockwell

CHÂTEAU Pichon-Longueville (Comtesse De Lalande) Vintage 1992 Grand Cru Classe Pauillac. This French wine, worth P264,000, is described as youthful and gorgeous in ruby-black color. It has a deliciously fresh berry, plum aftertaste. Peninsula Manila Exclusivites

Divine dining

IT'S the season to be indulgent. A spread of roast turkey, paté and caviar, capped with superior dark Swiss chocolate, is enough to savor the tastes of Christmas.

Of course, if there's good food, there has to be good wine to complement it. If you want to sample what the ousted president may be drinking in his "cell," then grab a bottle of Chateau Petrus, a dry, full-bodied 100-percent Cabernet wine worth P40,000 a bottle.

Too cheap or too expensive? You have a whole gallery—Californian, Chilean, Australian, French, Spanish and Italian wines—to choose from.

Vangie Baga-Reyes

FAYE
IRANIAN CAVIAR

BELUGA Caviar is particularly coveted during Christmas. A 50 g serving of caviar is worth P15,000. A 1.8 kg serving is P299,300. Caviar Oscietre is P8,000 per 50 g and Caviar Iran Sevruga is P7,000 per 50 g. Peninsula Manila's Exclusivities

CHOCOLATES SAY A LOT. From Peninsula Manila's Exclusivites comes holiday pralines consisting of dark truffles, Irish coffee, ganache, honey truffles, crème de banana, honey truffles, caramel truffles and amaretto truffles worth P1,350 a box.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA, JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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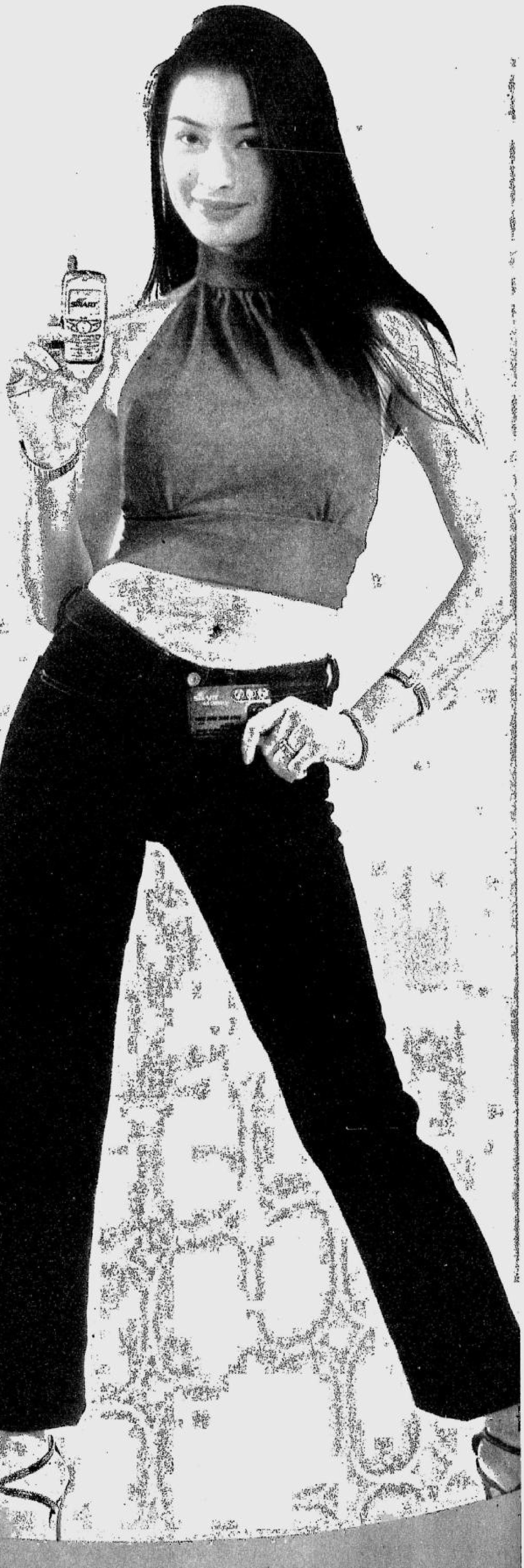

SMART Money, the leader in mobile e-commerce gives you worry-free prepaid airtime reloading, non-stop cashless shopping and so much more with just a few clicks on your SMART GSM celfone!

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So grab a SMART Money SIM pack and get a FREE SMART Money card now! It's simply the most convenient way to shop and reload!

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Barkada gimmicks come to life with the SMART Money MTV cards

Experience true mobile e-commerce packed with loads of fun!

SMART Money MasterCard and MTV are teaming up to bring you unparalleled fun and convenience. Only SMART Money lets you enjoy cashless gimmicks and reloading of SMART Buddy airtime credits with just a few clicks on your SMART GSM celfone. It's the world's first reloadable cash card linked to a celfone that you can load up simply by accessing your bank account over the air!

What's more, you can choose from four new funky designs that suit your personality. Use it to earn points and get the chance to redeem cool and exclusive MTV items. Flash the card and get backstage passes to the grooviest parties and MTV events. Use it in your favorite shops and get the wildest discounts and privileges you can ever imagine.

Avail of a SMART Money SIM pack and get your personalized SMART Money MTV card now!

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Week Waker-uppers

👍

Message of hope catches on

👎

Disgraceful 'Gracia'

👎

Distorted logic

?

Don't spare the rod—or gun

👍

Keeping up the spirit

👍

Unsung heroes

More on page G2

This Christmas Season, Feast on a World of Holiday Freshness at Shopwise.

Meats & Treats
It's a Small World at SHOPWISE
Festive Spread
kiri
Turkey & Some Mistletoe
BUTTERBALL
BUTTERBALL
Turkey

It's a small world of big Christmas cheer at **Shopwise**! Pay small for big value and variety as we bring you holiday treats of every size, shape, and color from all over the global village. *PLUS* the most bountiful bargains for kids from one to ninety-two as Shopwise celebrates ***A Small World for Christmas***.

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PLDT
TOUCH CARD
The pre-paid long distance call card.

Message of hope catches on

COMPILED BY
LITO B. ZULUETA

GUESS which song was playing during the lighting up of the giant display at the New World Centre in Hong Kong? That's right, **Martin Nievera**'s "Can't Stop Christmas."

The photospot features Sanrio characters outlined in lights, a truly spectacular Christmas treat since it covers 12 floors of the shopping mall facing the fabulous harbor on busy Salisbury Road in the Kowloon district.

The New World is a crowd-drawer every year but it should be a bigger attraction this Christmas. Even in Hong Kong, where residents have admitted in a survey that they'd rather shop than have sex, economic woes have slowed down trading and cash registers have not been ringing as merrily as in years past. With Hello Kitty dressed up in Yuletide lights with the inspired message "Can't stop Christmas," children of all ages are reassured that Santa Claus is coming to town.

That's only for the visual treat. **Virgie Ramos**' message of hope has hit Hong Kong and Taiwan in print via the Dec. 3 Time Magazine that carries the "Can't Stop Christmas" ad of Sanrio, with four lines from the song and credits to Nievera and **Rowell Santiago**.

Disgraceful 'Gracia'

GINA Celso

GINA Celso, the Filipino-Norwegian who plays Gracia in the popular PLDT commercial, is not so gracious after all in real life. A top-rating lifestyle TV show found this out when it tried to profile the model recently and was made to wait for four hours before it was awarded the presence of Her Grace.

Without apologizing for her tardiness, the model took an imperious survey of the room where the interview was supposed to be held and glared, "Why are there too many people here? I only want two persons here! The rest—out!"

But the host of the show, who's Filipino-American and no-nonsense, put her foot down. "No, they're staying," she told the model firmly. "They're my crew and I need them for the interview."

During the interview, it was revealed that Celso is devoted to body tattooing and piercing. She even showed her piercings to the delight of the crew. So that take cares of the widespread speculation on what "Gracia" will wear when she walks down the aisle with "Billy." (Hopefully, she won't come late for her wedding.) The piercings and tattoos were not shown on TV because the advertising agency asked they be deleted.

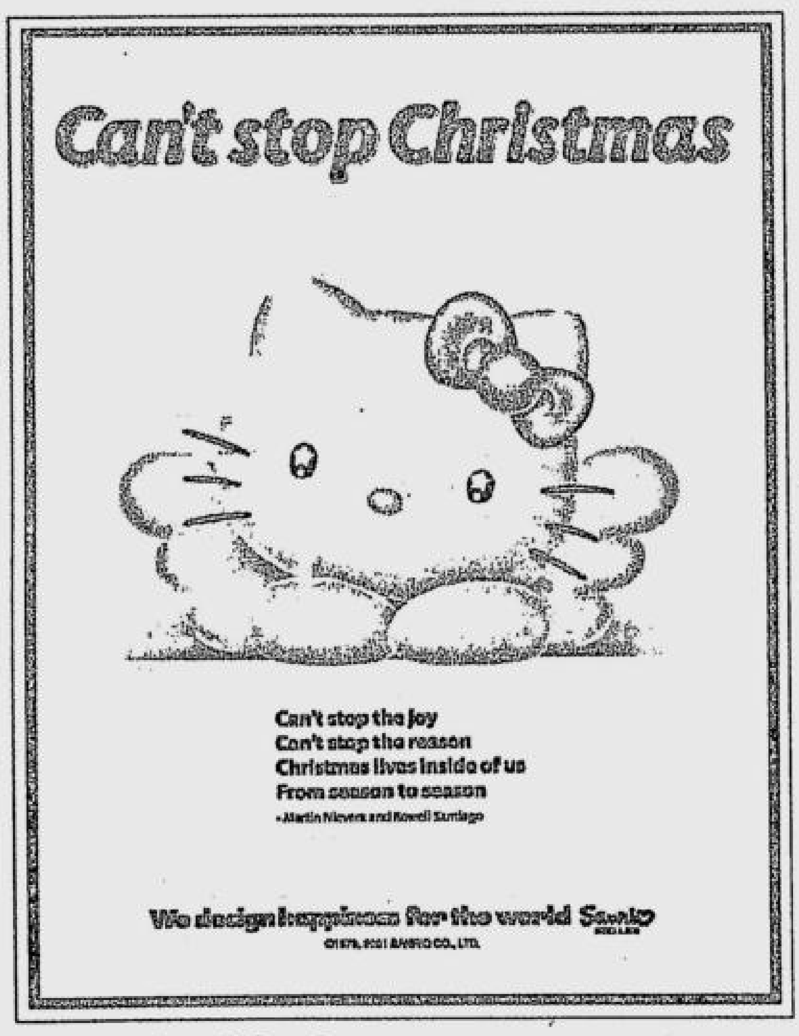
Asked what she had to say about the rumors, perhaps spread by her own handlers, that she was gang-raped and is the kept woman of a lawmaker, she replied, "Oh, I don't care. It's only the Philippines."

That, too, was deleted.

Distorted logic

CONTRARY to her claim, ex-senator **Leticia Ramos-Shahani** is not the begetter of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The NCCA merely resurrected an old law, Republic Act 4165, a law creating "the National Commission on Culture," authored by Sen. **Maria Kalaw-Katigbak** and signed into law by **President Diosdado Macapagal** in 1964. The charter of the NCCA, R.A. 7356, lifts many features from the Katigbak law, such as the role of government in culture and the arts, the Commission's mandate and powers, and a board consisting of 15 persons.

Asked by a viewer in a cable TV show recently what she's doing heading a fugitive library committee of the NCCA when she's not even a librarian, Shahani gave a surprising answer. She replied that the NCCA is not a professional regulating agency like the Professional Regulations Commission. She explained it's the PRC, not the NCCA, that checks professional qualifications. According to that logic, any Tom, Dick and Letty can join the Commission.


Can't stop Christmas
Can't stop the joy
Can't stop the reason
Christmas lives inside of us
From season to season
-Martin Nievera and Rowell Santiago
We design happiness for the world Sanrio
©1976, 2001 SANRIO CO., LTD.

TIME Magazine ad, Dec. 3

Don't spare the rod—or gun

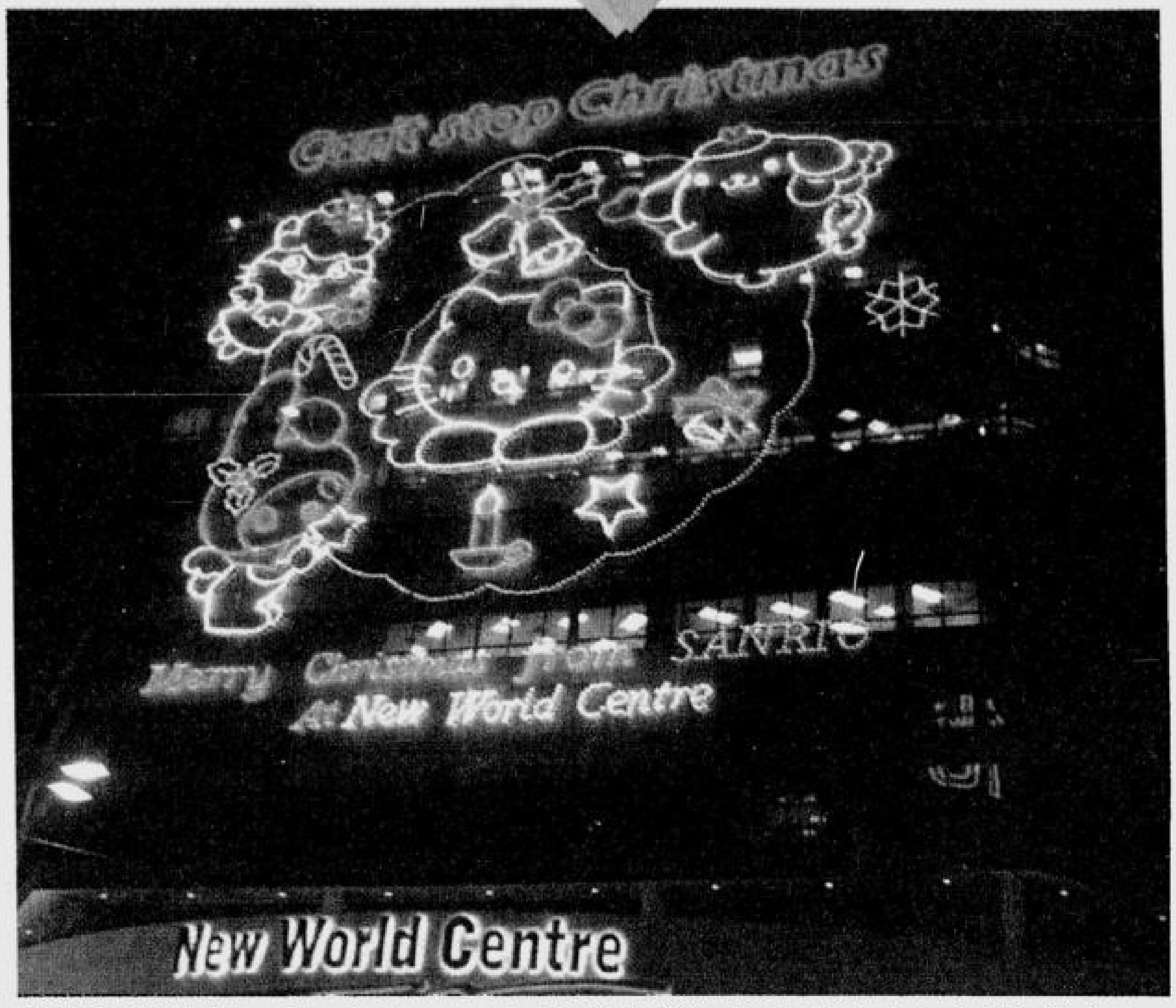
THIS local official known for his wife-beating and trigger-happy ways has a twisted way of disciplining his child. He was seen in a restaurant dining with his kid, who didn't exactly find the food before him appetizing. When the child refused to eat the food, the official pulled out his gun and pointed it at the child, who of course had no choice but to obey.

The other diners were aghast. If the official have been subjecting his children to such abuse and maltreatment, they would surely grow up twisted, trigger-happy and terroristic—just like their father.

Keeping up the spirit

GARY Valenciano will perform with his daughter **Kiana** tonight at 7 at the Waterfront Hotel of Cebu. The 8-year-old will perform Gary's composition, "Once Again It's Christmas," which won the Awit awards for best Christmas recording and best recording by a child artist.

The concert, produced by Manila Genesis, GV Productions, Ultimate Entertainment and Greenhills Christian Fellowship, will also feature Gary's son **Gabriel**, young singer **Tanya Manalang**, **Joshua Zamora** and **Rene Sagaram** of the Manoeuvers, and the Cebu Choir.



LIGHTS ON. Well-loved Sanrio characters led by Hello Kitty usher in the holidays in HK with the "Can't Stop Christmas" display at the World Trade Centre.

尖沙咀新世界中心聖誕亮
New World Centre
Stop Christmas

HONG Kong pop star Leon Lai and Stareast talents with Kitty and Daniel

Gary is a Unesco national ambassador for the Philippines. A special video he did for Unicef's "Say Yes for Children" campaign was nominated for a special Emmy.

GARY V energizes Cebu tonight.

Unsung heroes

THE TORRES High School Class 1955 Foundation last week promoted consciousness of less-known Filipino heroes when it sponsored the Third Prof. Diosdado R. Asuncion Memorial Lectures at the Philippine Normal University.

Efren Yambot, first vice president of Cocolife and a Torres High School alumnus, urged the nation and the academic community to help save the heroes of 1902 to 1910 from oblivion. For instance, he said, a monument could be inaugurated to Gen. **Mariano Sakay** in Tondo or Tanay to commemorate the centennial of his execution in 2007.

Yambot, who used to teach at the UP, said Sakay was called a bandit by the Americans but was actually a patriot and hero of the Filipino resistance to American rule.

FREE SPEECH

ON THE COMMEMORATION of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress, the LexMedia Digital, presumably an active member of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), came out with an advertisement in the INQUIRER on Nov. 21 titled, "No more dirty ads." The ad's copy said, "Don't let a little dirt ruin a great idea... With Lexmedia, there's nothing dirty about your ads."

But the ad was hypocrisy at its worst because the ad showed a naked young lady standing and biting her lips; her private parts were covered by black shades.

Lexmedia was guilty of exploitation and dirty advertising. There was nothing clean about its ad. Its use of a woman to satisfy its lust for dirty propaganda is unconscionable; its ad was the product of a demented mind.

To celebrate a national ad congress with a foul advertising strategy is a big insult to the Filipino people.

Any action from the AdBoard? To Lexmedia and Pana, you, too, are greedy and very dirty!

(Sgd) **ALDO P. FILOMENO**
Spokesperson
Philippine Alliance Against Pornography
c/o Trinitian Center, Trinity College, QC

Consumers air their gripes

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

WE promised consumers in a previous issue of this column that we would publish the letter of the president of Johnson's company, a reaction to our item on mosquito repellents in the market. The letter-writer said we were giving misleading information about the safety of DEET-based mosquito repellent.

We assure our readers that we have not reneged on our promise. One of these days, when we have ample space for a long letter, we will publish the comment and add to it our promised information on what DEET is all about.

We hope that explains things to the concerned parent (E. Francisco) from Ateneo who sent us the following letter:

"I was really frustrated not to see your reaction to the president of Johnson for the long letter, and your arguments about DEET...I am really surprised why you backtracked from your earlier promise to publish the letter of the company president. I can only surmise that you chickened out because of pressure from a multinational company. But who will protect us from companies... if you back out from pressure. I hope you can do justice to the many readers who expect more from you than be cowed."

Baygon responds to readers' complaints

Company sales director Abel Manliclic sent us this response to readers' complaints mentioned in this column last Oct. 28: "We are sorry about the experience of twinsnakes@yahoo.com about the Baygon sprayer. Although we never received the same complaint before from consumers, we have discussed this problem with our supplier. We will replace the defective sprayer and would like to thank him/her for calling our attention to the matter. Please let us know where we can send the replacement product.

"We would also like to deliver to Thor Orig a set of Genious with refill. Electric vaporizers, such as Genious, are products that cater to a small segment of the population. As these products are premium-priced, only large supermarkets and chain retail stores carry them. But we continue increasing distribution level so that others can avail of said products at a more convenient location."

So there you are, Thor Orig, science and agriculture correspondent of Manila Bulletin.

Orig and "twinsnakes" can e-mail Mr. Manliclic at abel.manliclic.am-@bayer-ag.de

Restaurant experiences

Beatrice Baluyot related this unappetizing experience in a restaurant at Rockwell. Although it happened months ago, on Father's Day, to be exact, she asked us to print her experience so consumers will be more alert when they dine out.

"We ordered a fish hotpot which had a lot of big garlic cloves in it. As I was chewing the garlic, however, I felt something unusually hard. When I checked, I was shocked to find a piece of thumbtacks inside the garlic clove! We quickly reported this to the manager, who replaced the dish at once."

That reminded us of a similar experience related to us by a letter-sender who almost broke his tooth when he tried to crack what he thought was a piece of ice in his softdrinks. It wasn't ice but the metal spout of the vendo-dispensing machine!

What irked the customer was the reaction of the restaurant manager to his complaint. The manager's only comment was, "Give me the spout, that belongs to us."

Smoking ordinance ignored

From concerned consumer A. Laborte comes a reminder to popular establishments about the enforced ban on smoking at enclosed public spaces.

"Calling on managers of cafés that have sprouted all over the malls, particularly underneath escalators and along hallways! Please call the attention of customers who smoke. It is in violation of MMDA and city ordinances.

"Furthermore, try passing by bingo halls of SM, and you will not miss the thick smoke coming from the game hall. The smoke travels through the hallways and inhaled by mallers."

Comment on phone cards

We advise holders of prepaid phone cards to send their complaints to the One-Stop Complaints Desk of National Telecommunications Commission at 3/F NTC Building, Times Street, corner Edsa, Quezon City.

N. McDaniel of Portland, Oregon/Cagayan de Oro commented about short-changing phone card buyers: "Disappearing prepaid time on phone cards? It is sheer nonsense to explain it as technical problem. It is a moral problem called theft. This is a problem also in the US, and is talked about in business as *leakage*, a kind word for simple theft from consumers."

Crack on billiard cue stick

Honey Reyes bought a billiard cue stick last Nov. 11 at a sport's shop in Ever Gotesco. When she was about to use it, she noticed a little crack under the varnished surface. She went back to the store and showed the defect to the seller, expecting to get a replacement. She related the following frustrating experience:

"The sellers insisted that I fill out a complaint form, and they would send the defective stick to the manufacturer for further examination. They said it would take one week. I told them they shouldn't make the customer wait when they could replace the defective product right there and then.

"Why would it take a week to examine a crack that was clearly visible on the stick? They also pointed out to me that it has been 10 days since I bought the stick. Then the store supervisor insinuated that I could have dropped the stick that caused the crack. Moreover, the sellers harped that it was the shop's policy to wait for a week before they allowed an exchange or refund for a defective product."

Reyes asked where she could ask for information on the no-return-no-exchange policy of the Consumer Act. You can write or call the DTI-NCR consumer net office for advice on what action to take. Call 890-4932 or 890-4971. Or write to DTI-NCR director Luwina Enecio at the Department of Trade and Industry, 108 C. J. Valdez Building, Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Take note, Quick Chow

Norman Ray Villamayor of winsomedaniel@hotmail.com cannot stomach the tag line of Quick Chow's pancit canton advertisment that says, "*mapapamura ka sa sarap!*"

He wrote: "As a child, I was taught that swearing is a bad thing, be it in whatever form. Has there been a change in our values that we now encourage people to swear just because the food tastes so good? Is this how we want our children to grow up, learning that swearing is a common behavior that is tolerated by adults?

"Calling on officials of Ad Board and Kapisanan ng Mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas!"

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

"UDLOT-UDLOT" as performed by UP High School sophomores 27 years ago

MEMBERS of Batch '76 rehearsing for the remake of "Udlot-Udlot"

UP High reunion features Dr. Maceda's 'Udlot-Udlot'

AS high school sophomores 27 years ago, members of the UP High '76 joined national artist and musicologist Dr. Jose Maceda in "Udlot-Udlot," an encounter with ethnic music, at the grounds of the CCP Complex.

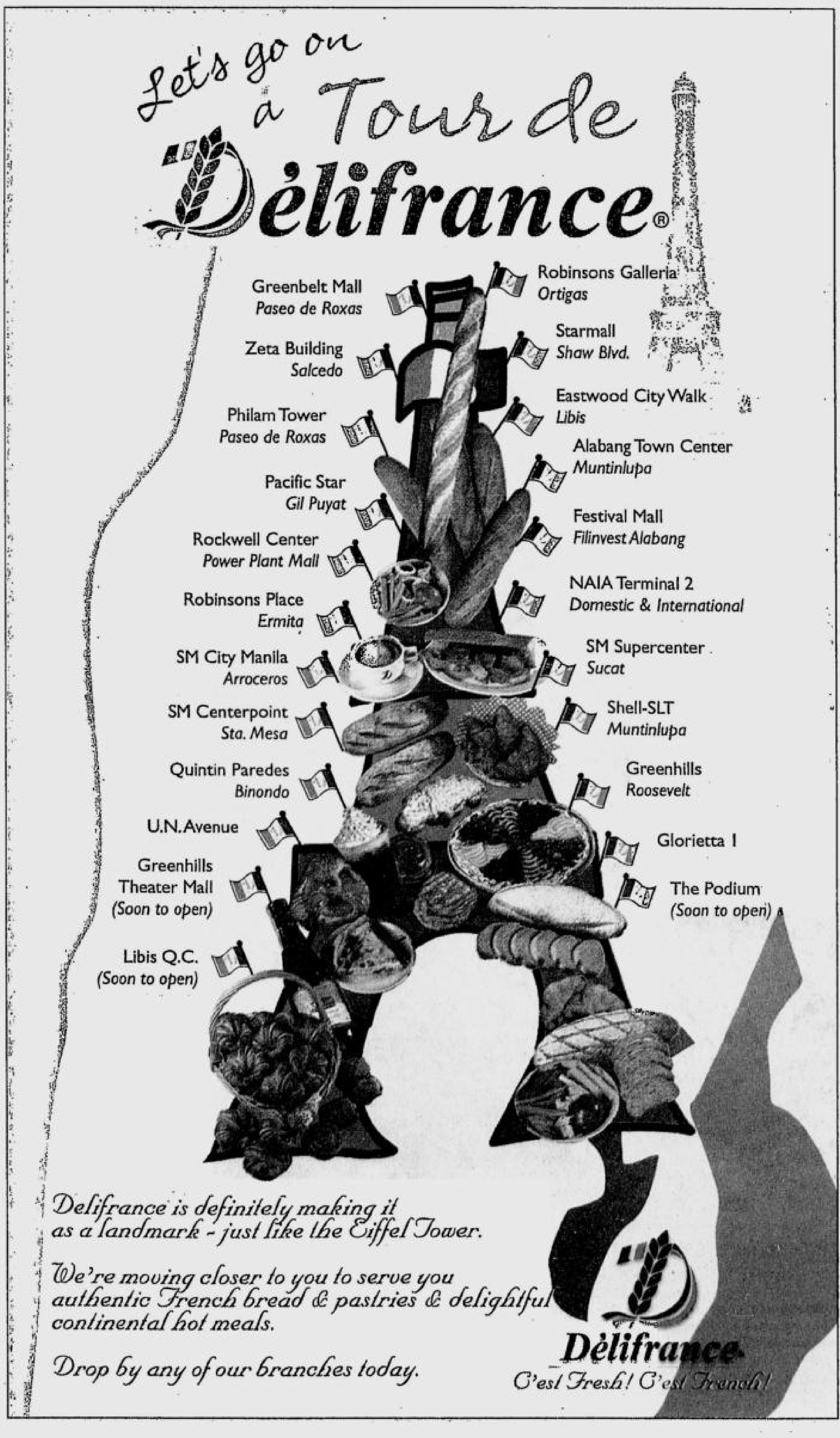
The batch, which is now celebrating its 25th anniversary, relives this experience through an "Udlot-Udlot" remake during the UPIS reunion on Dec. 8 at the UPIS grounds, according to Ruby Villavicencio Paurom, UP High '76 Inc. president.

The musical consists of three parts: vocals, sound of wooden sticks and a mixture of stamping of bamboo tubes, bamboo buzzers and bamboo flutes. After the Philippine premier in 1974, its music has been performed several times in Japan. In one occasion, it featured at least a thousand Japanese participants.

In an interview by Cynthia Estrada, another UP High '76er, Dr. Maceda said the inspiration for "Udlot-Udlot" took shape in 1968. Naming musical personalities Edgar Varece and Xenakis, he said: "Varece and Xenakis inspired me to make something of my own related to our culture. Yet it has nothing to do with those two. It is my own composition."

He added, however, that "Udlot-Udlot" would not be possible without his training in classical music. "Not without Bach or Chopin, without my exposure to Varece, without my music research. Because I know these, I consciously depart from that structure and create something. It just came out of me."

All UPIS alumni and their families are invited for the grand reunion and fair, which is held in honor of UP High Batch '51, golden jubilarians. The affair's theme is "Positive Connections." For more information, call Luchie Socrates Callanta, programs committee chair, through Ramon Gutierrez of the UP High Foundation at 929-7797; Dazzle, (0919) 796-1331; and Ruby, 453-4553.



Let's go on a Tour de Délifrance®

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Paseo de Roxas
Zeta Building
Salcedo
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Paseo de Roxas
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Gil Puyat
Rockwell Center
Power Plant Mall
Robinsons Place
Ermita
SM City Manila
Arroceros
SM Centerpoint
Sta. Mesa
Quintin Paredes
Binondo
U.N. Avenue
Greenhills
Theater Mall
(Soon to open)
Libis Q.C.
(Soon to open)

Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas
Starmall
Shaw Blvd.
Eastwood City Walk
Libis
Alabang Town Center
Muntinlupa
Festival Mall
Filinvest Alabang
NAIA Terminal 2
Domestic & International
SM Supercenter
Sucat
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Greenhills
Roosevelt
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Delifrance is definitely making it as a landmark - just like the Eiffel Tower.

We're moving closer to you to serve you authentic French bread & pastries & delightful continental hot meals.

Drop by any of our branches today.

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mag swimming!
mag pa-gimik!
mag theme park!
mag bargain shopping!

mag METROPOLIS star
Alabang South Superhighway, beside Alabang Viaduct
THE BIGGEST BARGAIN CENTER IN THE SOUTH

Anya Hindmarch's bagful of ideas

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO
Contributor

MUST-HAVE bags—Personalized bags from Anya Hindmarch. These are probably the cutest, most personalized chic bags to come out in a long time. Designed by Anya Hindmarch, they're called Be A Bag. The concept launched this year includes having your favorite photograph transposed to a bag. Over 100 "style icons" were asked to choose the bags, which reflect their personalities. These are now the hottest must-have bags. It's like carrying your best memories with you all the time. My good friend **Melissa Lopez** said that she ordered one with her son's photo on it and finds it absolutely adorable. It comes in two styles: an evening bag and a day tote bag. The product, which costs about $200, is available in satin with both satin trim and handle or satin with canvas side and leather handle. Colors vary from black, pillar box-red, natural to ice or pale blue and cream. The shape of your photograph will determine which style of bag works best for your image.

You can order via the Hong Kong store, 226/227 The Landmark, Central, Hong Kong, tel. +852-2526-2068 or e-mail contact @anyahindmarch.com.hk. Purchase of the bags can help cancer support charities.

Another year older. 2001 is almost a memory as we head into the year 2002. I have to ask myself, "What is it with aging that doesn't go well with me?" Although I am not that old (I would like to think so), it seems my body has changed drastically. My mind thinks that it can do things when I was still in my 20s but my body just wants to sleep and relax.

For the first time this year, I stayed till 4 or 5 a.m. at parties held last week. These were the birthday celebrations of lovely couple **Fred** and **Kerry Uytengsu** and indefatigable **Doris Ho**.

Although they were fun, the hangover for two days was not worth it.

I asked a doctor why my body had a hard time flushing out the alcohol from my system. He said, "As you age, your body fat increases and it absorbs the alcohol."

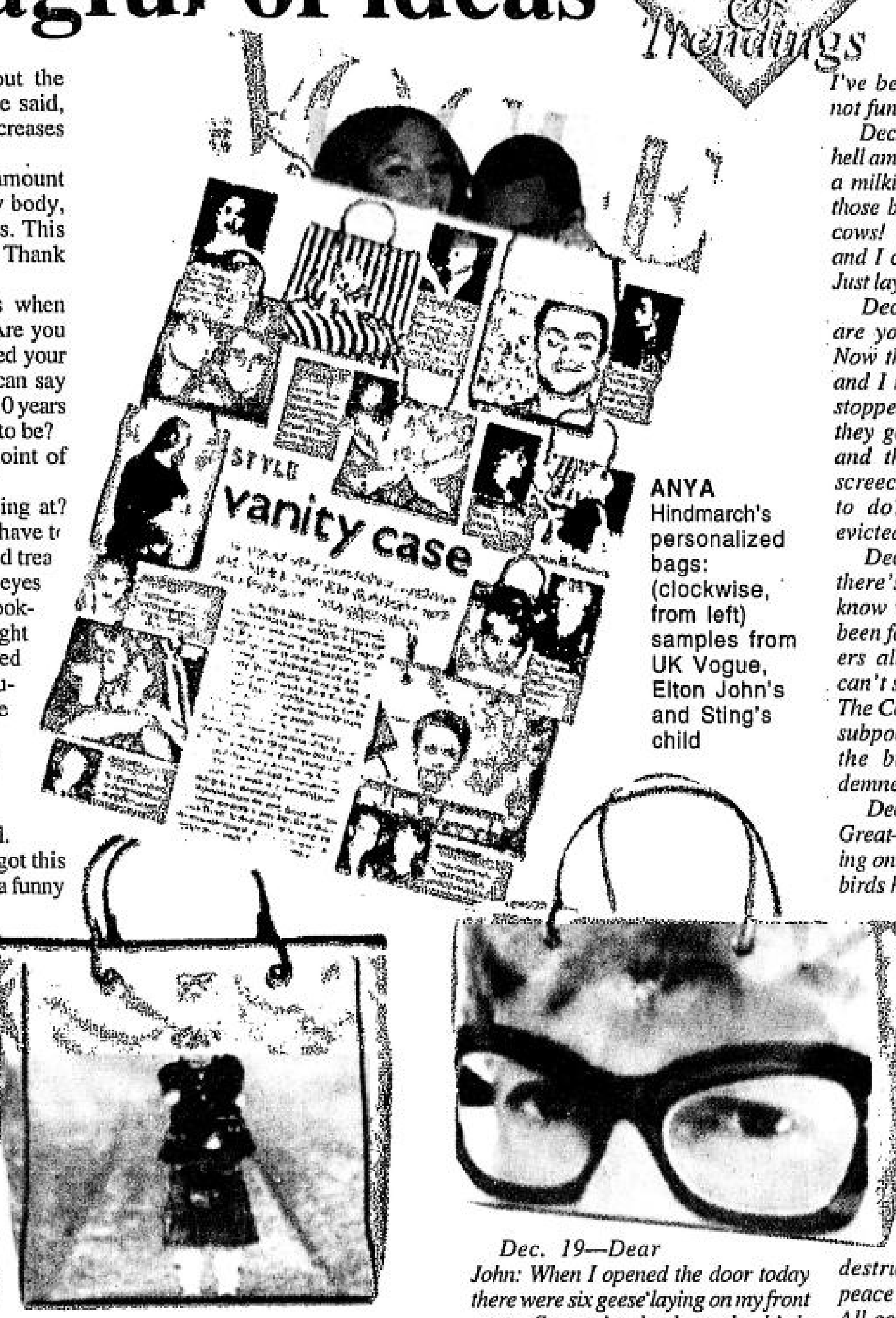
Another bad sign is the amount of hair sprouting all over my body, in the most unexpected spots. This was not a problem before. Thank God for tweezers!

Another sign of aging is when you begin to ask yourself, "Are you happy?" or "Have you fulfilled your dreams?" As I look back, I can say that I'm better off today than 10 years ago. But is this where I want to be?

Hmmm, that's another point of depression.

So what am I really driving at? Getting old is really scary. I have to use moisturizers, lip balm and treatment for dark areas below the eyes more often to keep me from looking like a dried prune. The bright side is that no one's exempted from aging. Some have graduated from this threshold while others await their turn.

So while you turn another year older and wiser, stay away from tequila and indulge in moisturizers instead.



ANYA Hindmarch's personalized bags: (clockwise, from left) samples from UK Vogue, Elton John's and Sting's child

12 days of Christmas. I got this e-mail from a friend, which is a funny take on the classic 12 days of Christmas. Laughter always brightens someone's day so here's something that hopefully will brighten yours. This is a letter from Lydia to John. Notice how her moods change as Christmas gets closer.

Dec. 14—My dearest darling John: Where on earth did you find a real partridge in a pear tree? Thank you a hundred times! All my love forever, Lydia.

Dec. 15—Dearest John: I received your sweet gift. Imagine, two turtledoves! They're adorable. Thanks again! Love always, Lydia.

Dec. 16—Dear John: Aren't you extravagant? I don't deserve such generosity, three French hens! Love, Lydia.

Dec. 17—Dear John: Today, I got the four calling birds. They're really beautiful, but isn't that a bit too romantic? Affectionately, Lydia.

Dec. 18—Dearest John: What a surprise. Today, the UPS delivered five golden rings, one for every finger. Just in time, as those birds squawking were starting to get on my nerves, I was beginning to wonder about you! Love, Lydia.

Dec. 19—Dear John: When I opened the door today there were six geese laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again? These geese are huge. Where will I ever keep them? The neighbors are complaining. Please stop. Cordially, Lydia.

Dec. 20—John: What's with you and the freaking birds? Seven swans a-swimming. What kind of joke is this? There's bird poop everywhere. I can't sleep at night and I've become a nervous wreck. It's not funny. So stop! Lydia.

Dec. 21—Okay, buster: What the hell am I going to do with eight maids a milking? It's not enough with all those birds—they had to bring their cows! There's manure everywhere and I can't move in my own house. Just lay off, smart-ass. Lydia.

Dec. 22—Hey, bonehead: What are you... some kind of a sadist? Now there's nine pipers playing—and I mean playing! They haven't stopped chasing those maids since they got here. The cows are upset and they're stepping over those screeching birds. What am I going to do? The neighbors want me evicted. What were you thinking?

Dec. 23—You rotten jerk: Now there's 10 ladies dancing. I don't know why I say "ladies." They've been fooling around with those pipers all night long. Now the cows can't sleep and they have diarrhea. The Commissioner of Buildings has subpoenaed me to give cause why the building shouldn't be condemned. I'm calling the police.

Dec. 24—Listen you "#$%&^#" Great—now there's 11 lords a-leaping on those maids and ladies. All 23 birds have been trampled to death in the orgy. The pipers have even started getting the cows into the action. I hope you're satisfied, you rotten vicious swine! Your sworn enemy.*

Dec. 25—To Mr. John Smith. From: Harrison Burnsley (her lawyer). Dear Sir: This is to acknowledge your latest gift of 12 drummers drumming, which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Ms Lydia Zeltow. The destruction of her property and peace of mind was, of course, total. All correspondence should come to our attention. Should you attempt to locate or contact Ms Zeltow at the sanitarium where she now resides, the attendants have been instructed to have you arrested on sight.

E-mail the author at asd_world @hotmail.com

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2240 Pasong Tamo, Makati City (In front of La Fuerza)
Tel. Nos. 893-7537, 810-7196

December 3, Monday 2-5 pm ASIAN FUSION with CHEF MAURO ARJONA Salmon Belly Kebab, Chicken and Pork Adobo Canneloni, Gilled Catfish in Tamarind Soya Sauce, Boiled Chicken in Lemongrass and Tamarind Broth, Fresh Fruit Tempura with Chocolate Fondue and Ginger Jasmine Sauce **P 1,500**

December 4, Tuesday 9 am – 2 pm BASIC BAKING 1 Learn the basics from measurements to presentation! Chiffon Cake: Coffee Crunch Cake: Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie **P 1,200**

December 5, Wednesday 9 am – 2 pm BASIC BAKING 2 More on cakes and frostings: Rich and Moist Devil's Food Cake with Mocha Buttercream Frosting, Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting **P 1,200**

December 6, Thursday 1 – 4 pm HAM MAKING Learn how to cure, cook and roast your own ham for the holidays (3 versions). Completely hands-on with individual take home. Bonus: Mapled Baked Beans **P 1,800**

December 7, Friday, 1 – 5 pm BAKING 3 Carrot Cake with Creamcheese Frosting, Lemon Meringue Pie, Rum Pound Cake, Tiramisu, Baklava **P 1,000**

December 8, Saturday 9 - 12 am HOLIDAY WRAPPING FOR FOOD ITEMS Different gift-wrapping techniques applied to a variety of food items. Each one assembles a food basket of fresh flowers and assorted fruits. **P 1,800 (inclusive of materials) Please bring scissors.**

December 10, Monday YEAST DOUGHS 9 am to 3 pm Pan de Sal, Ensaimada Espesyal (Cheese and Ube), Pear Walnut Bread, Dinner Rolls **P 1,200**

December 11 , Tuesday 1-4:30 pm BAKING 4 Ideal for Gift Giving Cappucino Brownies, Caramel Tarts, Empanditas, Chocolate Covered Logs, Oatmeal Cookies **P 1,000**

December 12, Wednesday 9 – 12 am BAKING 5 Rolls Malacanang Roll, Lemon Roulade, Brazo de Mercedes, Cinnamon Rolls with different Topping, Yule Log **P 1,000**

Campo Carne · Baker's Best · MONTEREY

"Nay,
ang laki-laki na ng apo n'yo!"

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Nasaan ka man, matatawagan mo na ang iyong pamilya sa bagong SMART Link, ang kauna-unahang satellite phone para sa mga nakatira sa lugar na walang cell site o landline. Ngayon, mas madali nang makipagkamustahan at makipagbalitaan sa abot kayang halaga. Dahil ito'y satellite phone, di na kailangan ng mga kable o cell sites. Madaling ikabit kaya sa ilang sandali lang, may telepono ka na! Magtanong na sa pinakamalapit na SMART Wireless Center tungkol sa inyong SMART Link!

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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

MANAGERIAL

COME AND JOIN US!!!
As we elevate your career to the top!

We are a joint-venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, No. 1 in our industry and an ISO-9001 certified company. We have vacancy for:

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The candidate shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security and safety, and purchasing.

The ideal applicant must be a graduate of any course in business or engineering, preferably with MBA units. He must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience in a medium-to-large scale business entity. He must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office and holder of a driver's license.

The hired candidate can expect a competitive compensation package and a stable career. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than December 15, 2001 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
Km. 21.5 West Service Road, South Super Highway Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. Nos. 8423161 to 64
Fax Nos. 8093756, 8093706

Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team as:

BRANCH MANAGERS

- Will be primarily responsible for business development of our upcoming branches nationwide.
- At least three (3) years of sales experience in a commercial or universal bank.
- With very good communication skills and high customer-skills orientation

SALES OFFICERS

- At least three (3) years experience in sales
- Maintains wide network of business and personal contacts
- Confident in selling deposit/loan products of the bank
- Good communication skills, both oral and written (proficiency in the Chinese language is an advantage)

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm or mail/e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Center
Doña Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

asiaunited@mindgate.com.ph

Application and/or resumés sent via e-mail are preferred to be in text (.txt) format to avoid software incompatibility.

A WELL-ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

SENIOR EDUCATOR

Code: R - SE

- Female, between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year Business related course
- Minimum of one (1) year experience in a similar capacity, handling ***seminars and trainings related to customer service, cosmetics and toiletries***
- With very strong leadership qualities and interpersonal skills
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Computer literate

MERCHANDISE PLANNING & CONTROL SENIOR ANALYST

Code: R - MPC

- Female, between 26-35 years old
- Graduate of Management, Economics, Industrial Engineering or any related course
- Preferably with two (2) years work experience in the retail business
- Analytical and must have excellent communication skills
- Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Must be computer literate, knowledge on database software is an advantage

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. Box 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall, Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview.)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE.

Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

BRAND MANAGERS (Code: S-BrM)

- ➢ Between 26 to 35 years old
- ➢ Degree in Business, preferably in Marketing or Economics, an MBA degree or units is an advantage
- ➢ Minimum of two (2) years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- ➢ With excellent communication skills

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER (Code: S-TSM)

- ➢ Between 27 to 40 years old
- ➢ Must be a Licensed Interior Designer or Architect
- ➢ Must have been involved in store design
  - ✓ Note: Please submit portfolio of works especially on store design
- ➢ Must be able to develop standards for Interior Design and Architectural works
- ➢ Must have at least two (2) years experience in handling renovation works including bidding and evaluation, program scheduling, inspection and quality control
- ➢ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Must be computer literate, specifically capable to design in Autocad

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS (Code: S-BM)

- ➢ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ➢ Graduate of a (4) four-year degree course
- ➢ Preferably with work experience in store operations
- ➢ Must be proficient in both oral and written communication
- ➢ Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- ➢ Must be customer-oriented
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ➢ Must be computer literate

CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER (Code: S-CPM)

- ➢ Between 27 to 40 years old
- ➢ Graduate of a (4) four-year business related course, preferably an MBA or has extensive studies in Business Administration, Operations Research, Retail Management
- ➢ With a meritorious professional experience in Corporate Planning
- ➢ With strong analytical, interpersonal and communication skills
- ➢ Must be computer literate

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo **through mail** to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

PHILAM PROPERTIES

Take the challenge of joining a growing multinational real estate company as it strives to be at the forefront of property development and management.

We are actively seeking for high-caliber individuals from reputable universities who have the drive and skills to deliver results in a fast-paced environment.

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER (BOM)	BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR (BA)
• Will be responsible for the technical operations of all Philamlife buildings nationwide, including the 46-storey Philamlife Tower • Must have a strong Chief Engineer's background preferably in a 5-star hotel industry • Preferably P.M.E. or P.E.E. • With at least 5-7 years engineering experience in high rise building • With strong background in Fire Life Safety Systems and Computerized Energy Management Systems • Experience in Implementing Preventive Maintenance Program	• Must be an Engineering graduate • With at least 3 years experience in building, facility or premises management and administration • With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills • Willing to work extended hours if warranted • Computer literate
BUILDING SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN (BST)	**RECEPTIONIST (R)**
• With at least 3 years experience working as a building technician • With strong background in maintaining and troubleshooting building electro-mechanical systems and controls (e.g. pumps, cooling tower) • Familiar with machineries and equipment in a hotel or high-rise building • Willing to work extended hours if warranted	• With very pleasing personality • At least 5'4" in height • At least 3rd year college • Female

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo.
Please affix the job code on the envelope.
The Recruitment Officer, Philam Properties Corp., 9th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Dow is a leading science and technology company that provides innovative chemical, plastic and agricultural products and services to many essential consumer markets. With annual sales of US$19 billion, Dow serves customers in 162 countries and a wide range of markets that are vital to human progress, including food, transportation, health and medicine, personal and home care, and building and construction, among others. Committed to the principles of sustainable development, Dow and its more than 40,000 employees seek to balance economic, environmental and social responsibilities. For more news and information about Dow, please visit our website at http://www.dow.com.

Dow Treasury function is proactive and dynamic, and provides the individual with a high degree of decision-making and responsibility. Our objective is to attract a high caliber financial professional interested in a long-term career within the Treasury function. This position may lead to assignments with other Dow Chemical affiliated companies both within and outside of Philippines. We are currently seeking to hire a proactive individual of outstanding potential to join us as:

Senior Finance Manager, Treasury

Reporting to the Finance Director for Singapore, the successful candidate will be directly accountable for managing all aspects of financial planning and credit activities for Dow Philippines. Key responsibilities include the management of cash flow & exposure forecasting, budgets, capital structures, dividend policy, after-tax funding structures / liquidity, bank relationships and credit in alignment with our global process guidelines. The successful candidate will interact actively with local top management and regional treasury / commercial teams.

The following quality & qualifications are critical to the role in Dow's finance organization:

- Degree in Economics, Business, Accounting, Chemical Engineering or equivalent
- Post graduate studies or an MBA in Finance is preferred
- 5-8 years of relevant experience with MNCs or banks
- Comprehensive knowledge of financial techniques and instruments and capital markets
- Good understanding of accounting principles and practices
- Dynamic and self-starting
- Independent & broad thinking
- Strong team spirit & leadership skills
- Excellent computer literacy
- Strong analytical, interpersonal & negotiation / communication skills
- Excellent spoken / written English

Dow Philippines will pay a competitive salary package commensurate with your qualifications.

Please send your resumé stating personal and professional qualification, contact telephone number, expected salary, and one recent photo to the following address, no later than 2 weeks after the date of this advertisement:

Dow

Human Resources Manager
Dow Chemical Philippines, Inc.
P.O. Box 1567
Makati Central Post Office
1255 Makati City, Philippines

MANAGERIAL

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PROJECT MANAGER

LAMAR MANAGEMENT SERVICES has an immediate vacancy for an energetic, experienced Manager for a Program Support Unit (PSU) which provides administrative, logistic and program support to a major international development agency. This one-year assignment will be based in Makati.

Candidates must have a university degree and substantial experience in managing human and financial resources, ideally related to the delivery of international development programs. They must also demonstrate excellent communication skill (oral and written) and initiative.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their CV in MS Word format, to the following e-mail address. Applications will be received until December 7, 2001.

lamar@lamarph.com

With the subject line 'Project Manager'

ARCHON MANPOWER RESOURCES CORP.

is inviting applicants for the position of

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Basic Function:

Will develop an accounting system for a Japanese company. Shall deal with the day-to-day transactions with Management and Supervisors. Will perform cost analysis.

Basic Requirements:

☑ At least 35 years old
☑ Must be a CPA
☑ With 10 years experience as Accountant
☑ Preferably worked for a construction or architectural company
☑ Computer literate
☑ Fluent in English

Send resumé with 2x2 photo at linchrd@info.com.ph

SONY

Did you know!?

Yes! There is a Sony Life Insurance Corporation. We have been operating in Japan for more than 20 years and came here in the Philippines in the year 1998. We are a flag-ship company of Sony's financial business group. Other Sony Group members are Sony Music, Sony Pictures and Sony Playstation.

Ranked #1 in customer satisfaction in the Nikkei Business Survey.
Ranked #1 in net increase amount in in-force business.
According to Standard & Poors, "Sony Life is strengthening its market position amid a difficult operating environment."

What is the secret of Sony Life's success?... Competitors wonder but the answer is simple:

We don't assume that customers know how much protection they need.
We can detect precisely how much protection customers need.
We don't sell if we find customers have no needs.
We know that customers' protection needs change from time to time.

How can we detect customers' needs precisely and accurately? It's a big wonder, but we have three (3) key concepts that explains everything:

Financial Need Analysis (different method from others)
Tailor-fitted Insurance Program
Lifeplanner (totally different from other life insurance agents)

Career Opportunity

For those who want to know more about our secret, or are interested to join our Company, we will provide CIP - Career Information Program for you. It's free of charge!

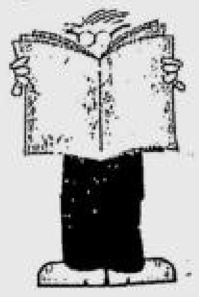
BUT, not everybody can attend CIP. We will entertain only those who meet the following requirements:

College graduate (our Lifeplanners are graduates of UP, Ateneo, De La Salle, Miriam College, UST, AIM, etc...)
Age 30-45
Currently earning more than P40,000 a month
No experience in life/pre-need industry

You may send your resumé to:

35/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue cor. Herrera St., Makati City.
or Fax it to 819-1803.
For inquiries, please call 819-6001.

Where you find the best.



VISIT US AT

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

SECRETARY

We require someone who has efficient skills in handling secretarial and administrative-relative tasks.

We are open to:

- Female, single not more than 27 years of age
- College graduate, with knowledge of accounting
- Computer literate (Windows, Excel, Lotus)
- With at least 3-5 years work experience
- Can take dictation and compose business letters
- Self-motivated and quality results-oriented
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal relation skills

Qualified candidates may apply in person or mail their application letters, with comprehensive bio-data, copy of transcript of records, and recent 2" x 2" picture to:

MENZI & CO., INC.
20/F Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Metro Manila

TOYOTA

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A DEALER OF CHOICE...?
then here's the one you're waiting for!

We are in-search of Top Caliber Teammembers to fill in our Job Vacancies

IN HOUSE MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

- female, not more than 27 years old
- minimum height requirement 5'4"
- college graduate of any four year course
- customer-oriented
- with pleasing personality

FIELD MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

- male, not more than 30 years old
- minimum height requirement 5'6"
- college graduate of any four year course
- driving skills is an advantage

....So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and bring their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW, INC.
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
411 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

NOTE: Please apply Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM only.
PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Degree in Electrical Engineering, preferably licensed
- With at least 2 to 3 years experience in Building Management System
- Must have knowledge in computer programming and basic electronic components
- Must have established a good network of contacts and have strong relationship with major contractors and consultants
- Good communication skills, oral and written

SALES SECRETARY

- Female, 24 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 3 to 5 years experience as a Secretary preferably in Sales and Marketing
- Above average in oral and written communication and computer skills
- Proficient in business correspondence, travel arrangement and documentation
- Honest, hardworking and with pleasing personality

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Female, 21 to 28 years old
- BSBA or BSC graduate
- With at least 1 year experience in administrative work including purchasing and personnel administration
- Must be computer literate
- Personable, resourceful and innovative

Please send resumé with 2x2 picture to the attention of the HRD, MCPO 1443 Makati Central Post Office.

inSync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client is a non-profit foundation that provides financial assistance and non-financial services to support ecologically-sound, economically-viable, and community-oriented enterprises. They are currently in need of a well-qualified

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE JOB: The hired candidate will manage the day to day operations of the foundation, ensuring that it contributes strategically to development finance in the Philippines. This will include monitoring and improving the performance of the foundation, the development of its annual operating and strategic plans as well as project evaluation and recommendation.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The candidate, likely be over 40 years old, is graduate of any business, economics, or social science course. He or she should have at least five years experience in a senior management position and seven years experience in working with NGO's, PO's or Cooperatives. The candidate must have strong financial orientation and business acumen, and have the personality to effectively relate with donors, policy-makers, civil society leaders, and beneficiaries.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants may send their resumés, with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph through e-mail address: **execsearch@insync.com.ph** or **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City**.

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inSync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client, a progressive mulinational consumer goods manufacturing company based in **Laguna**, is in need of a well qualified

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING MANAGER

THE JOB: The hired candidate will be directly responsible for: the preparation of the Philippine Plant's financial and operational results as well as statutory reports, the analysis of financial accounts, cash management and banking relations, accounts payable and payroll, among others.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The candidate must be a CPA, with very good scholastic records. He or she must have at least 5 years' supervisory experience, ideally gained from a multinational company, and solid experience in preparing financial and management reports. The ideal candidate is a quick learner, meticulous, hands-on and achievement-oriented. A high aptitude for working with accounting software is also necessary.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumés with application letters, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code: AFR) to: **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City** or e-mail them to **execsearch@insync.com.ph** on or before **December 7, 2001**. *(Note: we will reply only to those considered for interview.)*

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY AN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH & BEAUTY COMPANY

IS IN NEED OF

Retail Sales & Marketing Coordinators
Retail Sales & Marketing Supervisors

- Previous experience in similar field preferred but not essential
- Self-motivating
- Excellent communication skills
- With strong leadership and initiative
- Computer literate
- Female

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

*Please send or mail your resumé not later than **Dec. 7, 2001** to:*

#78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: bodynsoul@skyinet.net

Max's RESTAURANT

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For its continuous expansion program

One of the leading restaurants in the country that has kept the legendary "Sarap to the Bones" delicious Filipino tradition has career opportunities for its soon to open branches in Pulilan and Malolos, Bulacan, Calamba, Laguna, Manila and Quezon City.

AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER (AOM)

☑ Male, at least 3 years of experience as a branch/store manager in a restaurant or fast food;
☑ Willing to travel to different franchised branches in Metro Manila and in the provinces;
☑ Will be responsible for the assigned branches' sales and profitability targets; FSC; Computer literate (Word, Powerpoint, Excel).

BRANCH MANAGER (BM)

☑ Graduates of BSHRM or related courses;
☑ Minimum 5 years working experience; 3 years in supervisory level.

DINING SUPERVISORS/ASSISTANT DINING SUPERVISORS (DS/ADS)

☑ Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
☑ Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or other related courses;
☑ Minimum 2 years working experience as Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter.

KITCHEN SUPERVISORS/ASSISTANT KITCHEN SUPERVISORS (KS/KOIC)

☑ Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
☑ Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;
☑ Have at least 2 years working experience as Kitchen Supervisor or Asst. Kitchen Supervisor;
☑ Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

MARKETING SERVICES OFFICER (MSO)

☑ Male/Female; at least 24-30 years old
☑ Graduate of Marketing, Communication Arts or any related course;
☑ With at least 2 years solid experience in handling local store marketing programs in the restaurant or retail industry;
☑ Results-oriented, based in Manila but willing to do periodic provincial assignments;
☑ Computer literate.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS (BSC)

☑ Male/Female, 23 to 26 years old;
☑ College graduates, preferably of BSHTM, Tourism, PR, BSBA, Mass Communication;
☑ Must have a pleasant personality and above-average English communication skills.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (EA)

☑ Female; at least 24-30 years old;
☑ Graduate of Office Administration, Communication Arts or other related course;
☑ With at least 2 years working experience in assisting an executive officer;
☑ Computer literate and good in written and verbal communications.

BOOKKEEPERS (BK)

☑ College graduates with 12 units in Accounting;
☑ Have experience in restaurant setting.

MASTER COOK (MC)

☑ Had previous formal or vocational training in cooking;
☑ With 3-5 years of working experience;
☑ With knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

Interested parties may apply in person, hand carry, mail their application letters with their resumé, xerox copy of their transcript of records and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Max's Training Center
A. Guarra Street, Baclaran, Parañaque City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: MAX'S)

A joint venture company engaged in the manufacture of breathable and non-breathable polyethylene film for diaper and sanitary napkins applications is in need of a

SALES SERVICE MANAGER

☑ Female, 30-40 years old
☑ College graduate, preferably graduate of Marketing/ Business Management
☑ Five (5) years experience in the field of Sales/Marketing
☑ Knowledge of Import/Export, an advantage
☑ Proficient in MS Office Applications
☑ Very excellent communication skills in English

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

☑ Female, at least 21 years of age
☑ Graduate of Business Management or other related course
☑ With at least one (1) year working experience
☑ Pleasing personality
☑ Computer literate with good typing skills
☑ Excellent communication skills in English

Mail or Fax Resumé to:

HR Department
FULL SAFE PHILIPPINES, INC.
Acsie Avenue, Severina Industrial Estate
Km. 16 West Service Road, South Superhighway
Parañaque City 1700
Fax No. (632) 821-6916

BELLESTAR

WORLDCLASS HOMEGROWN ENTERTAINMENT

IS IN NEED OF:

LAWYER

- with at least 3 years experience in actual litigation work
- graduate of a reputable law school
- at least 30 years old
- willing to work on a full-time basis

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- graduate of B.S. Computer Engineering/B.S. Computer Science
- has at least 3 years experience in programming
- with good interpersonal communication skills
- not more than 35 years old

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- single (at least 30 years old)
- college graduate (preferably B.S. Commerce)
- with good command in English (oral & written)
- at least 3 years experience as Executive Secretary
- with pleasing personality
- with good interpersonal skills

Interested party may submit their comprehensive resumé with contact number and most recent 2x2 photo:

To: **Ms. Bernadine Marie Marcial**
Address: **1709 Piy Margal St., Sampaloc, Manila**
Tel. No.: **749-9313 / 732-1999**

Quickly

-A unique concept with a "KICK"

QUICKLY (Kualkell) International is a highly reputable in the Taiwan Bevefage Industry. We are credited for the success of Milk Tea in Taiwan and have obtained the *National Excellence Award in 1997 conferred by the National Consumer Association of Taiwan.* QUICKLY has over 1,000 franchise outlets in the *U.S., Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Japan and now in the Philippines.* Quickly offers delicious and healthy beverage variants like Blended Ice, Brewed Ice Tea, Blended Brewed Ice Tea, Blended Milk Tea, Shake Fruit, Tofu/Pudding and Iced Fruit Juice. If you are Result-Oriented and a Good Team Player, we invite you to join our Team as:

FRANCHISE RELATIONS ASSISTANT (CODE : FRA)

- Male or Female between 24 to 35 years old
- High level of business maturity and judgment (at least 2 years work experience)
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics or any business course
- Computer proficient
- Possesses good communications skills (written and verbal)
- Comfortable with interacting directly with different levels of people in the organization
- Has the ability / desire to work in a relatively unstructured and fast-paced environment and gain a holistic business perspective.
- Analytical & Detailed person
- Must be willing to do field work
- Must be a patient, good in negotiation & presentation skills.
- Highly motivated and has a good work attitude.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT (CODE : BDA)

- Male or Female between 24 to 35 years old
- At least two years intensive work experience
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics or any business course
- Computer proficient.
- Preferably with previous market research experience
- Possesses good communications skills (written and verbal)
- Highly motivated and has a good work attitude.
- Analytical and well-versed in market trends.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

MARKETING SERVICES ASSISTANT (CODE : MSA)

- Male or Female between 22 to 28 years old
- At least two years work experience
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics, Com-Arts, or any business course
- Computer proficient and highly creative
- Possesses good communications skills (writen and verbal)
- Analytical.
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

JR. ACCOUNTANT/FINANCE ANALYST

- Male or Female between 22 to 28 years old
- At least two years work experience in the same capacity
- Graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance
- Computer proficient
- Analytical & Detailed person
- Good written/oral communications skill
- Knowledgeable in preparation of Financial Statement
- Self-starter and can work with minimum supervision

We offer above industry compensation and benefits to qualified applicants. Interested parties may send in their comprehensive resume indicating desire compensation package with 2 pcs of 2x2 picture and transcript of record to:

The Human Resources Department
QUICKLY
1841 Carba Building, C.M. Recto, Sampaloc, Manila
Fax# 735-2518
E-mail: quickly@mindgate.net

Systems Analyst

Keppel Batangas Shipyard, engaged in shiprepair and shipbuilding has an urgent need for a **Systems Analyst** for its shipyard establishment located in Bauan, Batangas.

Basic Function:

The position is responsible for planning, organizing, executing, implementing and controlling activities such as systems analysis, hardware acquisition and maintenance and systems design and administration.

Qualifications:

- Degree in Computer Science or related discipline;
- Must be familiar with and experienced in a computerized accounting environment and local area network;
- Must have at least three (3) years hands-on experience in systems and software development.

Competitive compensation and benefits await qualified applicants. The successful applicant will be based at the company's shipyard in Bauan, Batangas.

*Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé and a 2x2 photo to the following address by **December 7, 2001**.*

KEPPEL BATANGAS SHIPYARD
Unit 3B, Country Space I Bldg.,
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Attn: VP-Administration

Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interview.

Aventis

Aventis Pasteur

A world leader in vaccines with the broadest range of products, particularly handling adult and pediatric human vaccines and plasma protein. Currently, our Company is in need of:

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Your mission will be – To consistently achieve annual budget through effective promotion of all Aventis Pasteur Products.

Your qualifications must be – A graduate of any 4-year paramedical course, with at least one (1) year sales experience. You must be proficient in both oral and written communication and with pleasing personality. You must also be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines.

Please submit your Curriculum Vitae to:

THE HR & ADMIN DEPARTMENT
Gammon House, 110 Rada St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

TAKANICHI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

(MFG. OF AUTOMOTIVE INTERIOR PARTS)
URGENTLY NEEDS

1. ACCOUNTANT - CPA

- Male/Female; 25-35 years old
- Single or Married
- At least 3 years experience in manufacturing firm
- Well-versed in all phases of Accounting
- Knowledgeable in Computerized Accounting System
- Organized and resourceful with high level of integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Can work with minimum supervision

2. EXECUTIVE/DELIVERY DRIVER

- Male, 25-40 years old
- With at least 2 years experience in driving
- With excellent driving skills
- Preferably Manila resident for Exec. Driver
- Laguna resident for delivery driver

Please handcarry or mail your application letter enclosing a detailed resumé, transcript of records and most recent 2x2 photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
111 Commerce Rd, Phase 2,
Industrial Zone, Laguna Technopark
Biñan, Laguna

APTi-Philippines, Inc. is a *Research and Development* Company and an affiliate of **IBM Japan, Ltd.** and **TOSHIBA TEC Corp.**

APTi

Research & Development is a way of life in APTi-Philippines. We encourage our people to challenge present technologies to come up with better ones. In the highly volatile I.T. industry, we strive to be among the leaders to drive its growth and direction, anticipating the next stages of technology evolution.

Join us now and be a part of the FUTURE!

We are involved in :

- Microcode/Firmware Development for Laser and High-Speed Impact Printers, and POS Terminals.
- Development of Device Drivers, Middleware and Network, POS and other Software Applications.
- Quality Assurance Services

We are looking for Highly Motivated and Experienced IT Professionals and Developers for the following:

Hardware Design Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of controller cards and ASICs, focusing on the printer market.
Qualifications:

- 1-3 years industry experience in digital design
- Experience in RTL synthesis and design flow is an advantage
- Proficiency in VHDL, Verilog or mixed-HDL design an advantage.
- Industry experience in Analog design is an advantage
- Experience in using industry level design tools an advantage

Software Design Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of software applications.
Qualifications:

- 1-3 years industry experience in software development using Visual C++ and Visual Basic
- Full Knowledge of Windows 9X environment
- Knowledge in Java, XML, and other web-related technologies is an advantage
- Knowledge in using SQL, MS SQL is an advantage
- Familiarity with Windows NT/2000 is an advantage

Device Driver Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of Various Device Drivers.
Qualifications:

- 1-3 years industry experience in developing device drivers under Windows, Unix,/Linux
- Must be proficient in Visual C/C++
- MCP Certification in Visual C++ would be an advantage

Firmware/Microcode Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of firmware for embedded systems.
Qualifications:

- 1-3 years experience in developing Embedded Systems (e.g. printer, cell phone, pager, PDA)
- Must be proficient in C/C++ and Assembly Language programming
- Must possess good logic
- RTOS knowledge would be an advantage
- Must be familiar with equipment such as oscilloscope and logic analyzer

Project Leader

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Qualifications:

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SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
December 2, 2001
Volume 14 No. 39

Rafael Rossell
The Next Dreamboat

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LOOKING FOR CMY

I READ "The Persistence of God" by Fr. Ruben J. Villote (**SIM**, 28 October 2001), and I liked his reflections on the reading of the day, the Persistent Widow. But I am more interested in his project, the Center for Migrant Youth, which is in need of financial/material assistance and what he calls "Survival Needs."

Can you please provide us the necessary information to be able to get in touch with Fr. Ben for our contribution to the Center?

JOHNNY S. SULIT SR.
837 Atis St., Juna Subd.
Matina, Davao City 8000

Fr. Ben Villote can be reached at the Center for Migrant Youth, 103 Cordillera St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, tel. no. 7328268.

EULA THE BUTTERFLY

I'm so glad you featured Eula Valdes on your cover. I was just about to send an e-mail requesting you to feature her (**SIM**, 11 November 2001). She really is a great actress. She's like a caterpillar who lay low for a while in her cocoon to transform into a beautiful butterfly. I hope you can also feature the drama princess, Kristine Hermosa. Thank you very much and more power.

C.R.S. IGNA
Parañaque, MM
kittine@digitelone.com

OLD FRIEND

I am an old acquaintance of Eula Valdes, and I hope she still remembers me. We used to play volleyball after class, sometimes at the UST field or at Dominican School. I am very glad to read that everything is turning out favorably for her. Please extend my regards and my good wishes for her career and personal life.

NEBU ALDAY
UST Elementary Batch 1981
nalday@thevsagroup.com

BETTER PHOTOS AND LAY-OUT

FIRST it was the Jessica Soho cover photograph (**SIM**, 7 October 2001), and now it is the Eula Valdes cover (**SIM**, 11 November 2001) photo that caught my notice. These cover photos have not been kind to their subjects, especially Jessica Soho. It seems that Mike Alquinto exhibited a serious lack of knowledge in portraiture techniques, if not photography in general, when it comes to lighting, composition and use of lens and camera angles to create the most flattering images of his sitters.

I thought the Soho picture was very unflattering to this esteemed journalist; she certainly deserved better. Admittedly, she is a difficult subject to photograph due to her weight, but there are ways to minimize the subject's negative physical attributes.

The high contrast lighting, while in vogue these days, can minimize Soho's size, but in this case, as a side effect, it contributed to a pasty complexion. He could have shot her at a higher angle in order to minimize the double-chin effect.

As for Eula Valdes, I understand part of the motivation for posing her in the manner shown on the cover and inside as well: supporting the notion of "looking back." Actually, when you consider the color image on the inside, it might seem better suited for the cover because of its composition and the posture of Ms Valdes. Instead, what the viewer gets is a static, stiff and bizarre image which looks like her head was severed from her body and placed on top of her shoulder. I thought the background was severely dark and might as well have been black. Most offensive of all is her arm, which is the most prominent element in the entire photograph.

In conclusion, much improvement is needed in the cover photography coupled with better layout techniques. Effective layout is compromised when one starts with a problematic photograph. SIM certainly deserves better than the embarrassing performance seen thus far.

COLLIS DAVIS
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The Cover Image Clean-cut cover boy Raffy Rossell is ready for a life in the lights. *Photograph by Romy Homillada*

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by Ed Santoalla

As she marks her 90th birthday, the extraordinary lady doctor and champion of children's health has some unfinished business she'd like to take care of

A Pediatrician for All Seasons

ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO WAS BORN OR WAS A CHILD GROWING UP IN METRO MANILA IN THE '50S AND '60S WOULD NOT FAIL TO RECOGNIZE HER.

TAKE THAT DOCTOR FROM UST WHO RECENTLY JOINED A GAME SHOW ON NATIONAL TV WHERE THE TRIVIA QUESTION WAS, "WHO IS THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE DECLARED A NATIONAL SCIENTIST OF THE PHILIPPINES?" THE GUY ANSWERED, "I KNOW THAT BECAUSE SHE WAS THE DOCTOR WHO DELIVERED ME AS A BABY." HE WENT HOME P300,000 RICHER.

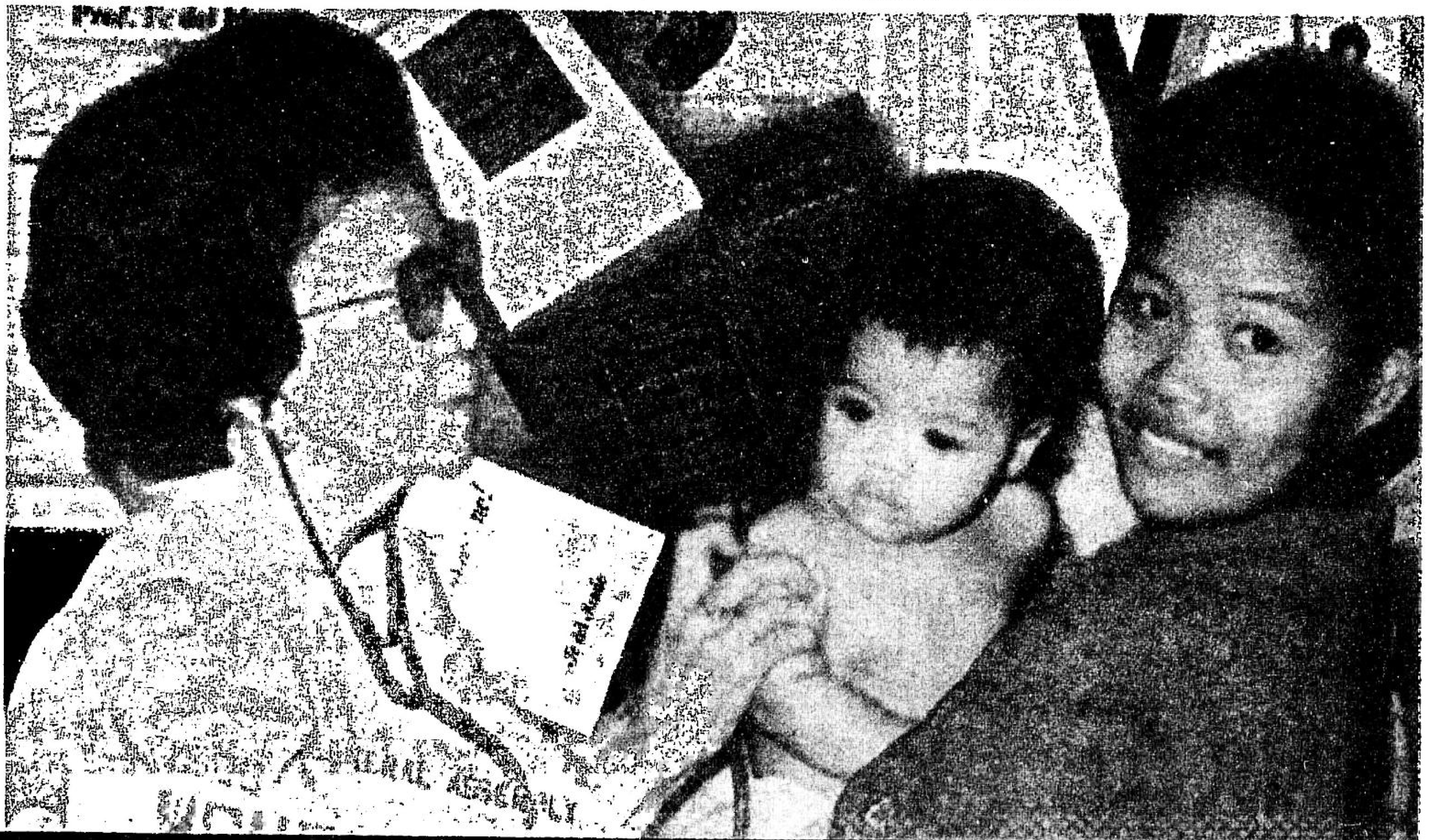
Despite her achievements, she remains a frustrated woman, who still dreams of giving quality health care to indigent patients

Or Carlos Abrera, a Makati-based media entrepreneur, who, every time her name is mentioned, almost always blurts out, "That's a blast from the past." He used to visit the old lady as his pediatrician.

Or Concert Queen Pops Fernandez, who was born in the hospital along Banawe Street in Quezon City. Or former beauty queen Melanie Marquez, who gave birth to all her children there. Or child star turned pop singer Aiza Seguerra who used to be a patient.

The lady is none other than Dr. Fe del Mundo, founder of the first private non-profit hospital dedicated to pediatric care in the country, pioneer in the development of health care delivery systems for families and communities particularly in depressed areas, first Filipina national scientist.

The good doctora *in her younger days, above; doing what she does best, below*



For her skill as a physician and her untiring efforts to make available the best quality medical care especially to poor Filipino children, Del Mundo has received the Elizabeth Blackwell award. In 1977, she was cited by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation for her community involvement. In 1980, she was declared a National Scientist, the first Filipina ever to be so recognized.

All these, after transforming a "Little Clinic," so-called for its being situated in a three-compartment office in Mendiola, Manila in 1948, into an institution that transferred in 1957 to its present address at No. 11 Banawe St. – and which has established the standard for pediatric care in the Philippines.

The Children's Memorial Hospital was the name Dr. Del Mundo gave to the "Little Clinic" when, in response to an ever-increasing client base, it expanded its facilities in 1957. It has since become the Children's Medical Center of the Philippines, the name it assumed in 1963 when it became a full-fledged hospital.

Throughout the ensuing decades, Dr. Del Mundo, using her own personal resources and those of local and international friends and benefactors, introduced innovative programs for health care delivery to children, families and communities that have since served as a model for other institutions. These include an extension work program that sends medical teams to depressed communities in the provinces, an Institute of Maternal and Child Health (the first ever in Asia), a Tuberculosis Center for Children, and an Institute of Family and Community Health, among others. The hospital was also the first to grant a degree in community pediatrics, duly recognized by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. All these have made the Children's Medical Center a much sought-after pediatric training hospital that has produced many of the best pediatricians in the country.

Fe del Mundo speaking for the poor and the young patients

In 2000, the hospital's name was changed again, this time, to the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation in honor of its founder and tireless worker. With this, it seems Dr. Del Mundo, the pioneering child doctor who turned 90 last November 27, has reached the peak of her years and her lifework and could now rest on her laurels. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

For despite her achievements, she remains a frustrated woman. A main cause of her frustration is the hospital's conversion from one dedicated to pediatric services to one that must now also cater to adults.

"Her dream is really to build and maintain a hospital for children only," says Dr. Alendry P. Caviles Jr., who has just been named president of the hospital. "But the realities of the times, particularly the advent of managed care, has forced us to modify our orientation," he adds, stressing that "it is in this aspect that Dr. Del Mundo feels she has failed."

For this reason, Caviles says, Dr. Del Mundo has adopted as her last dream and mission the establishment of a charity building that would make available quality health care to indigent patients.

Another cause of Dr. Del Mundo's frustration arises from what she perceives as a lack of interest in research that generates new knowledge in the area of community health. According to Dr. Leoncia Q. Firmalo, past president of the hospital's medical staff organization and alumni association, Dr. Del Mundo has always made it a point to encourage medical researches to improve community-based health programs. "She is frustrated that no one is doing any more research in this area," Firmalo says.

In celebration of Dr. Del Mundo's 90th birthday, which was also the hospital's 44th founding anniversary, the Fe Del Mundo Medical Center Foundation has launched a campaign to help Dr. Del Mundo realize her last dream and resolve the cause of her frustration.

A fund-raising drive to generate the finances needed to construct the charity building was kicked off last November 28 with "Divas of Saigon," a special dinner-concert at the Manila Hotel featuring the stars of the world-acclaimed West End musical "Miss Saigon." Week-long anniversary festivities also featured an intra-hospital medical research contest on the subject that appeals most to Dr. Fe del Mundo's mission and sense of service. After all, the lady deserves to have every one of her noble dreams come true.

Killer Whales

The coat of seal pups is sleek with salt sheen
their hair shines newly-oiled
as they play on the shore flipping their tails.
The arch of the sun bends on their young backs.
Their trust tethers them to safety.

The day is clear, the hour guileless and without wit.
The water rolls with the clouds.
Like an idea, purpose crests with a wave,
a black blister moving like hot kelp.

The pups frolic on the stretch.
The tide laps their flanks. The foam
suddenly hisses.
The mother cows are heavy with attention.

The whales rise like bubbles.
The sea opens with fin knives.
A pup is carried away like a cub:
teeth on the loose flesh of the nape.

Death is far away.
The whale flings the pup into the air
and catches it,
belly and tail splashing.

Its cries fly flockless.

A pup that has disappeared
is brought back.
It resurfaces as if borne by the sea
and now discovers land.
Its mother still waits on the quiet sand.

The sea closes. Clouds rush with the tide.
The day is unconcealed.
Shadows turn and are gone.

Miguel Paolo Celestial

Sa Baguio nitong Oktubre

para sa kasama kong Nuwebe

Sa pagkakataong di naghahanap
ikaw ay nasumpungan.
Di ko nakuha ang iyong pangalan
ngunit sapat na ang nalaman
        bukas na loob
        malawak na pang-unawa
        nagtatanong na diwa.

Aakalain bang masusulyapan ang kailanman
sa isang tanghalian?

M. Cardenas

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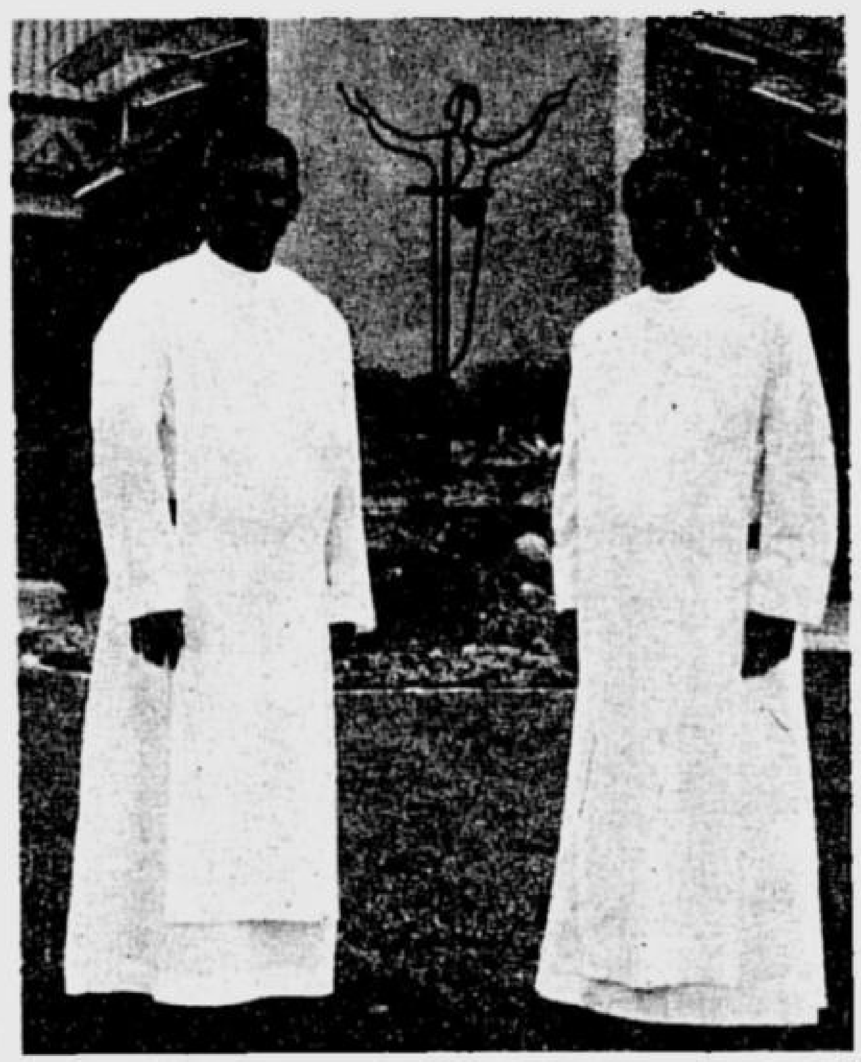

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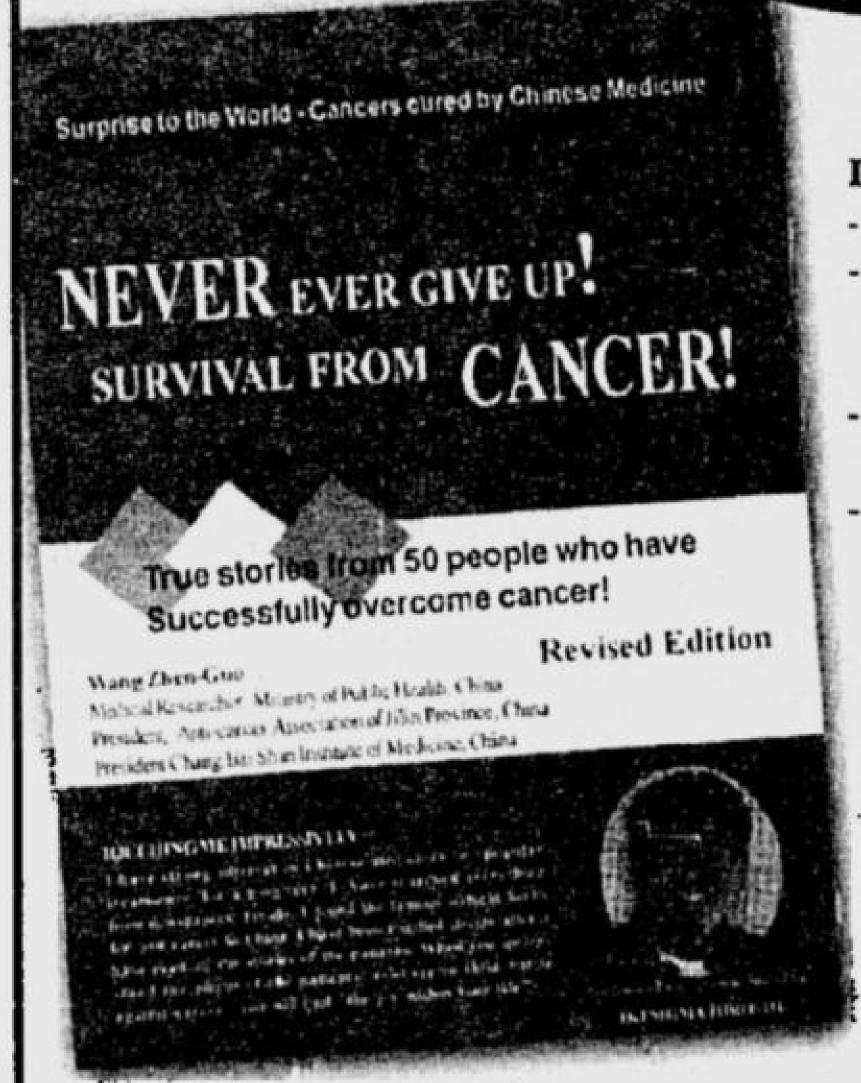

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Man of the Earth

Junie on a visit to Banahaw in 1986

ONE MEASURE OF A MAN'S LIFE IS HOW HE IS REMEMBERED AFTER HE HAS PASSED ON, BY THOSE WHOSE LIVES HE TOUCHED. MAXIMO KALAW JR. (JUNIE TO FRIENDS, *KA* IMO TO CO-WORKERS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES) DIED IN NEW YORK CITY IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 1, AFTER HOLDING AT BAY DEADLY PANCREATIC CANCER FOR FOUR YEARS.

> "I would like to live life as fully as possible and still leave a mark"

An avid sportsman, big game hunter, bon vivant, playboy and bohemian, he later surprised even his friends when he made a turnaround and became a highly-spiritual back-to-nature advocate and an environment activist. In a moving tribute by Maurice Strong, founder and chairman of the Earth Council, and Ambassador Van Haren, president and CEO, Junie was described as being "synonymous with the concept of sustainable development... He was one of the earliest and most effective pioneers to recognize that development, to be truly equitable and sustainable, must involve real participation by the people if it is to meet their needs and aspirations."

As an older first cousin 12 years his senior, I was close to Junie at different points in his life. I was 10 years ahead of him at the Ateneo, but our paths crossed through the many projects that reflected his growing concern for nature and the environment. Junie was at the helm of the Caliraya nature resort project, the Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures, the Green Forum, the Haribon Foundation and the Rio Summit.

Calling the shots: In his office in Costa Rica as executive director of the Earth Council

I had watched Junie's evolution from his days as an avid hunter into a conservationist with a vengeance and shared his conversion. He turned our hunting grounds in Caliraya into a center for the higher consciousness, and the mountain ranges of Mt. Iglit — where we hunted tamaraw and deer — into a sanctuary for endangered species. The late aviator Charles Lindbergh came especially to launch the conservation program and inaugurated the Tamaraw Preserve.

When Junie turned to his quest for higher consciousness and experiential spirituality, his thirst knew no boundaries. His search took him to distant lands – India, Nepal, Afghanistan – where he sought great spiritual leaders and yogi gurus.

In the early 1980s, Junie turned to promoting inner and ecological wholeness, the "Kabuuan" Program of inner transformation and the Green Forum Movement for redirecting development to more sustainable paths. His years as president of Haribon marked the phase in Junie's life when he became a militant environmental activist. From 1988 to the time of the Rio summit preparations before 1992, he mounted a vigorous campaign to save Palawan, ban commercial logging, establish national protected areas and protect indigenous peoples.

Junie was born into privilege. His sister, Erlinda (now vda. de Ilusorio) remembers him as being born on May 21, 1939 in Balayan, Batangas to Maximo M. Kalaw and Marietta Tejico. Maximo Sr. was then dean of Liberal Arts at the University of the Philippines and was to become assistant to President Manuel Quezon. The elder Kalaw also became a member of Congress and later moved into the Executive Branch. His mother was a "Visayan Belle" from prominent families in Negros, the Jisons and the Lopezes.

His classmates remember this introspective, soft-spoken, relaxed boy at the Ateneo, who would come up with sacks of rice in a final bid to clinch the class victory in the annual Christmas Package Drive. A goalie on the soccer team who was popular with the girls, Junie graduated in 1960 with a major in Economics at the Ateneo de Manila at age 21. After graduation he went on a young man's grand tour, living a bohemian life in Greenwich Village in New York, taking his MBA in NYU and coming back home after three years.

Changing the face of politics: Junie (center) introduces Peggy Rockefeller Dulany to President Fidel Ramos

The business crowd remembers the young executive in the mid-'60s who was first vice president for marketing and member of the executive committee of Liberty Flour Mills. At 28, Junie became executive vice president and general manager of MADIS, Inc., a modest wholesale trading house that grew to become a large and diversified trading company.

An interview with Junie in 1967 paints a portrait of a somewhat frivolous man who might have pursued a yuppie career and later became a golf-playing business executive. The Asia Newsweekly Examiner describes Junie as having "had his share of footloose bachelor living... In less restive moments, he pilots an aircraft, but when restlessness gets the better of him, he eases himself out of the plane in his parachute on a 'free fall' as naturally as if it were nothing to marvel at."

One article quotes him: "I would like to live life as fully as possible and still leave a mark. They say that to become immortal a man has to do one of three things: plant a tree, write a book, or sire a son."

But that would come later. For the young Junie, life was for living to the hilt. "For fun, (he) flies his own Cessna, gone sky-diving and roams the wilds of Kenya and Mozambique stalking impalas, nyalas, and sable antelopes..."

Another writer describes him, at 33 and the president of four companies, "as one of the most sought-after and elusive bachelors around Manila (who) has gained the reputation, deservedly or not, of being a 'real playboy' (in the words of one sweet young thing)."

Speaking on why he had remained single, Junie was quoted as saying: "This is a country with the most barriers to achieving interpersonal relationships... There is too little of person-to-person contact because we have a structure that is confused." Sex, he describes as being "Beautiful! Basically, it is a means of communication. It's a beginning of a dialogue of the soul – two human beings."

But somewhere in time, something must have happened. What bolt of light struck him, as he rode to his Damascus, that transformed him from a predatory male stalking game and females, into a New Age human being preaching conservation and women's rights?

The recollections of Moey Chuidian, whose father, Johnny Chuidian, was Junie's older hunting partner in those days, provide a clue: not a bolt from heaven but a tiny insect may have produced the metanoia. In September 1967, 28-year-old Junie and the elder Chuidian, age 54, went to Africa for a month-long safari. While in the African bush, the hunting duo received an appeal from a Masai village. A rogue elephant was wreaking havoc on villagers and crops. Would they help eliminate him?

The duo obliged – it combined the excitement of stalking Africa's largest mammal and helping a community. They spent the night. And sometime in the early hours, which is its own hunting time, a tiny anopheles mosquito sunk its needle-like bill into the pair injecting into their bloodstream the deadly cerebral malaria parasite.

A couple of weeks later while still in the bush, the two came down with the dread disease. They were flown to Nairobi. The illness proved fatal for the older Johnny Chuidian. It brought Junie to the edge of death. It took him a month to recover. Johnny's son, Moey, met Junie at the Manila airport on his return. He recalled that Junie had a different look in his eyes. Something rather profound had changed in him.

For us his cousins and friends who had gone with him regularly on his local hunting trips, the change took interesting form. What had been our old hunting grounds for wild pig became a center for sessions for practitioners of yoga, Zen and other consciousness-raising practices, spiritual healing, and ecological discussions.

In 1971, Junie organized the Caliraya Growth Center based in the resort that he started to develop with his brothers and with Leni Hontiveros on Lake Caliraya in Lumbang, Laguna. The Caliraya resort became the venue for conferences and workshops among students and practitioners of various meditation schools, therapeutic and alternative healing practitioners and followers of the Gestalt school. The Lake Caliraya Resort became Junie's experiment in developing a higher consciousness community. This was an experiment because in his words, "it is not really a business endeavor," but a "medium for a self-development process.

"I thought that what the community really needs are basic ecological values, a realization that '*kabit-kabit ang bituka natin* (our lives are interconnected).' I cannot be really well if you, my neighbor, are sick. I cannot be really well if I destroy the trees and pollute the lakes. . . ," he said in an interview.

Junie put together planners like the late "Pal" Paloma, teams of ecologists composed of architects, psychologists, zoologists, geologists, etc. to cobble together a physical environment that would reflect this wholeness. In the process, he forced the specialists to think holistically of the ultimate needs of the human person: What would the environment be like? What configuration would the buildings have?

To page 15

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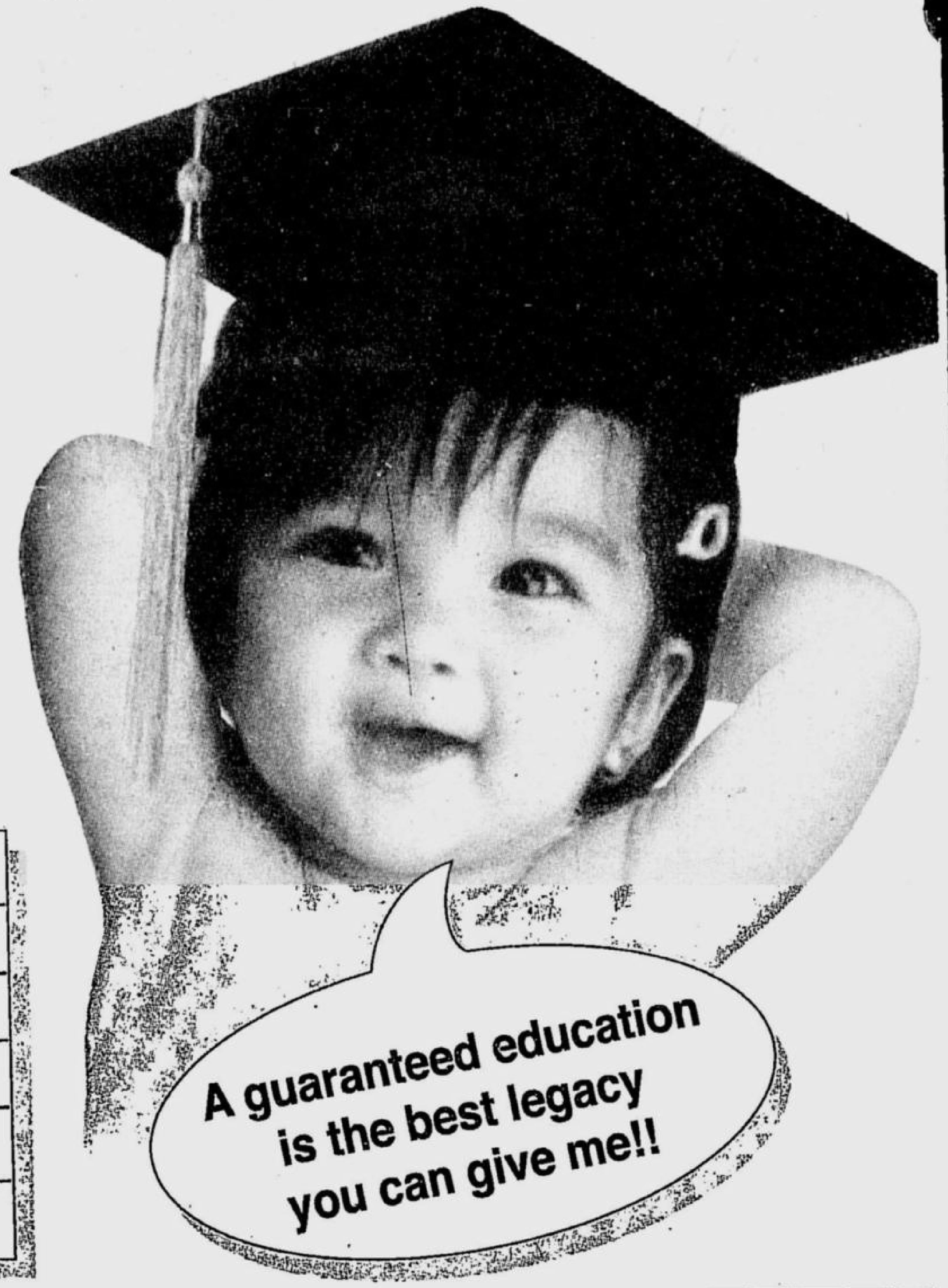
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Graduation Gift Bonus (Optional)	20,000	40,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	200,000	400,000

AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PREMIUMS

AGE	PLAN 100		PLAN 200		PLAN 300		PLAN 400		PLAN 500		PLAN 1000		PLAN 2000	
	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT	BASIC	WITH GRADUATION GIFT
0	P 810.45	914.65	1,572.15	1,780.55	2,333.85	2,646.45	3,095.55	3,512.35	3,857.25	4,378.25	7,665.75	8,707.75	15,282.75	17,366.75
1	842.95	954.75	1,637.15	1,860.75	2,431.35	2,766.75	3,225.55	3,672.75	4,019.75	4,578.75	7,990.75	9,108.75	15,932.75	18,168.75
2	885.35	1,005.55	1,721.95	1,962.35	2,558.55	2,919.15	3,395.15	3,875.95	4,231.75	4,832.75	8,414.75	9,616.75	16,780.75	19,184.75
3	936.55	1,065.75	1,824.35	2,082.75	2,712.15	3,099.75	3,599.95	4,116.75	4,487.75	5,133.75	8,926.75	10,218.75	17,804.75	20,388.75
4	991.75	1,130.55	1,934.75	2,212.35	2,877.75	3,294.15	3,820.75	4,375.95	4,763.75	5,457.75	9,478.75	10,866.75	18,908.75	21,684.75
5	1,052.75	1,201.95	2,056.75	2,355.15	3,060.75	3,508.35	4,064.75	4,661.55	5,068.75	5,814.75	10,088.75	11,580.75	20,128.75	23,112.75
6	1,117.35	1,277.75	2,185.95	2,506.75	3,254.55	3,735.75	4,323.15	4,964.75	5,391.75	6,193.75	10,734.75	12,338.75	21,420.75	24,628.75
7	1,188.65	1,361.05	2,328.55	2,673.35	3,468.45	3,985.65	4,608.35	5,297.95	5,748.25	6,610.25	11,447.75	13,171.75	22,846.75	26,294.75
8	1,266.15	1,451.55	2,483.55	2,854.35	3,700.95	4,257.15	4,918.35	5,659.95	6,135.75	7,062.75	12,222.75	14,076.75	24,396.75	28,104.75
9	1,352.85	1,552.05	2,656.95	3,055.35	3,961.05	4,558.65	5,265.15	6,061.95	6,569.25	7,565.25	13,089.75	15,081.75	26,130.75	30,114.75
10	1,448.85	1,663.25	2,848.95	3,277.75	4,249.05	4,892.25	5,649.15	6,506.75	7,049.25	8,121.25	14,049.75	16,193.75	28,050.75	32,338.75
11	1,561.25	1,791.85	3,073.75	3,534.95	4,586.25	5,278.05	6,098.75	7,021.15	7,611.25	8,764.25	15,173.75	17,479.75	30,298.75	34,910.75

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Place of Birth: __________ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT/OWNER/PAYOR

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Address: __________
Postal Code: ______ Age: ______ Date of Birth *(mo/day/yr)*: ______
Place of Birth: __________ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
E-mail: __________
Occupation: __________ Employer: __________
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	PAYOR	CHILD
1.What is your height?	______	______
2.What is your weight?	______	______
3.Have you consulted a physician for medical attention or surgical advice, or been confined to a hospital, sanitarium or similar institution during the past five (5) years?	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
4.Have you ever been told you had: cancer, diabetes, epilepsy,heart trouble high blood pressure or tuberculosis?(If yes, underline which ailment)	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO
5.Do you know of any impairment in your health or physical condition?	☐ YES ☐ NO	☐ YES ☐ NO

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Cover Story

by Cora Llamas

photographs by Romy Homillada

Rafael Rossell is an aspiring young actor from the icy north who isn't afraid to dream big. With his good looks and healthy attitude – well, who knows?

Fresh Prince

THEY DON'T TURN OUT MANY YOUNG STARS LIKE HIM FROM THE SHOWBIZ FACTORY MILL THESE DAYS. NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD ACTOR RAFAEL ROSSELL, WHO HAS AN UPCOMING MOVIE, A SOAP OPERA SERIES, AND THE MOST RECENT CLOSE-UP COMMERCIAL TO HIS NAME, DID COME WITH THE PREREQUISITE GLAMOR-BOY LOOKS AND THE WINNING CHARISMA. BUT THE ONE THING THAT IMMEDIATELY MADE HIM STAND OUT WAS HIS UNSWERVING POLITENESS.

> *The latest find of the ABS-CBN Talent Center came all the way from Norway, the balikbayan son of a Filipino business executive and a nurse*

From the time the interview started, his words were punctuated with the solemn, seldom-heard (especially from a teenager) "*po*," "*opo*" and "*hindi po*." When he asked about your opinion, he seemed genuinely interested. And refreshingly enough, there was none of that thick, almost impenetrable cloud of super self-confidence made more irritating by a practised coyness.

To put it simply, Rafael was authentic. The real thing. He didn't have to try to be cute.

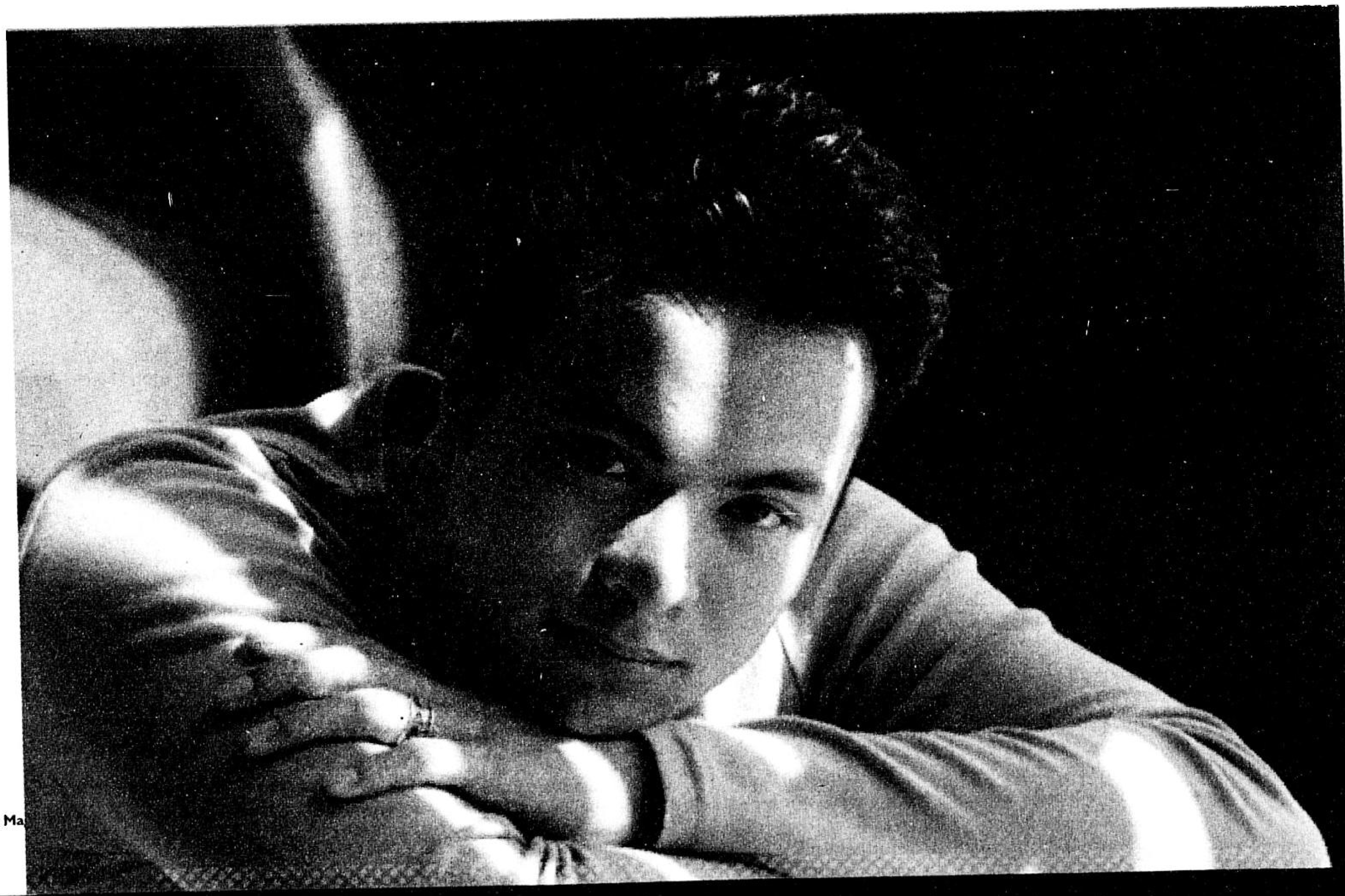
This latest find of the ABS-CBN Talent Center came all the way from Norway, the *balikbayan* son of a Filipino business executive and a nurse.

He's already hurdled the language barrier. Speaking Tagalog with hardly a trace of an accent, he sounds more like your average senior student from Ateneo or La Salle. It almost sounds unbelievable that he had to work hard to make it sound natural.

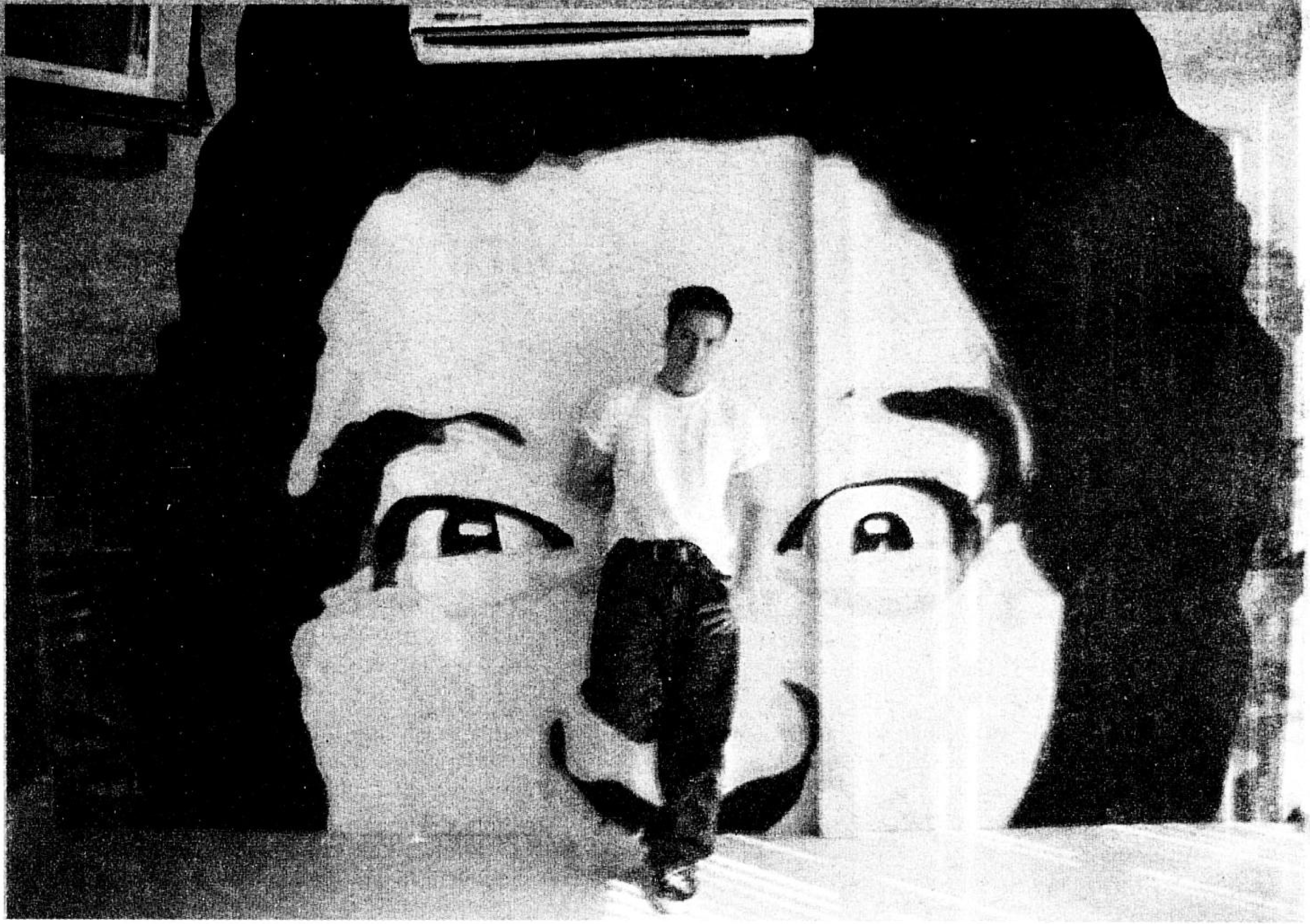
"When I first came here, my accent was a mixture of American slang and Cebuano," Rafael remembers. Since he was three, his family would visit the Philippines every so often, staying in Cebu, his dad's home province. "Upon hearing it, the ABS people told me, 'No, you *have* to learn Tagalog.' I had to take Tagalog lessons. Everyone spoke to me in the language all the time. I wasn't even allowed to speak English inside the Talent Center premises."

His fluency has currently improved, to the point that he could tour with Tanghalang Ateneo's "Mirandolina" last November. The poetic Tagalog translation of Carlo Goldoni's romantic satire on the power play of male-female relationships was far from yuppie Taglish speak. At first glance, Rafael found the script overwhelming. "It was *malalim*, almost Biblical (in verse and style)," he mused.

In real life, he still has to contend with that same gender dynamic that is at the heart of the play. "One thing that shocked me when I settled in Manila was the courtship," he admitted. "Here, the guy buys a lot of gifts and puts his best foot forward. In my opinion, *wala 'yan kuwenta*. Because the guy can change once the girl says yes." The birds-and-bees ritual apparently had less gloss in Norway. "If a guy and a girl like each other, they first start off as good friends



Big dream for child-like Rafael: Nothing is impossible



then become lovers. We don't give the kind of gifts that all your money can buy. If you start as friends, you see the real person inside."

That same kind of sincerity is the one thing this unattached bachelor would look for in any future girlfriend. "She has to have a great personality. *Hindi maarte, hindi masungit*. She has to like me not for what I have right now, but for what I am inside. She has to accept me the way I am." Then he paused before delivering his fair warning, "Some people do find me child-like. I'm not sure if it's because they expect me to act more serious because I look older than my age. I joke around, I'm *malambing*, I pinch people's cheeks. I love playing around with kids."

That little boy inside Rafael does surface occasionally. It comes out when he talks about his dreams for his future. They're big dreams, but he recounts them without cocky arrogance. What holds you in his demeanor is the sense of a child's wonder – the belief that even the impossible can be possible. No wonder Steven Spielberg is his all-time favorite director.

"I want to make history," Rafael said simply. "Look at Aga Muhlach. He has all these billboards and movies. Everybody looks up to him and knows who he is. But he also has a wife and kids. He has everything!" The real dream, though, is "Hollywood. If I reach Hollywood and make a movie there, I can sleep," he said with a twinkle in his eye.

The idea does sound farfetched – but then again, so did his statements back home in Norway, where he was a young elementary student wanting to become an actor. Rafael fell in love with the movies, ranging from Brando's best work to "Rambo" and "Superman." Right there and then, he decided he wanted to become a star one day. But the only outlets for his energies were karate and ninjitsu (orange and "almost black-belt" respectively) and a few high school plays. Surfing the Net one day, he read on the ABS-CBN website the Talent Center's announcement for auditions. Upon his request, a friend going to the Philippines promptly submitted to Channel 2 his letter, photos, and videos of him break-dancing. Ten days later, the Center e-mailed him an invitation to audition, but guaranteeing him nothing. Rafael lost no time in flying over.

It took a couple of auditions before he got the green light. What followed were several months of workshops in acting, singing, dancing, modeling and hosting. The Close-Up break came almost a year after. After guest shots as the typical *balikbayan* rich kid in shows like "Martin Late At Night" and "Richard Loves Lucy," he finally landed the role of Oliver, another rich-and-handsome yuppie with the occasional bad temper in the Sunday afternoon soap opera "*Tabing Ilog*."

His parents, dad Rafael III and mom Amelia, helped in settling him down. They set up his condo and taught him how to cook the simplest Tagalog foods. In a sense, it wasn't much of an adjustment. At 16, Norwegian kids are encouraged to find their own apartment, furnish it and pay for its rent from summer job earnings, with a little allowance from the older folks. "*Hindi ako sanay sa katulong* (I'm not used to helpers)," Rafael admitted. "Even now when people ask to carry my bags, I don't think it's right. After all, I'm strong enough."

From the start, the elder Rossells were supportive of their son's choice, even if it meant foregoing college for a while. "They gave me a chance because they didn't want to deprive me. If this doesn't work, they believe that I can learn from it and become a better person from the experience." A few seconds later, though, he emphasized with a sudden surprising streak of seriousness, "This has to work because I gave up college for this." And neither can he enroll in any Manila university right now because his tough work schedule doesn't permit it.

Yet, Rafael may have nothing to be worried about. The movies are already beckoning. Tentatively scheduled for a December release is the romantic fantasy "*Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip*" where he co-stars with Jolina Magdangal and Leandro Muñoz. He plays a playboy prince consigned to being frozen in billboard hell because of his philandering ways, to be set free only if a girl genuinely falls in love with him.

The role should be a breeze considering the many boxes he's broken out of himself. And there are a few more he'd like to crack, like a "Matrix"-like role in Hollywood.

"My mom has always told me that anything is possible if you really believe and want to make it," he said, addressing the unspoken question concerning the feasibility of that dream. "If I want something, work hard for it, and not give up, I know I'll get it."

The lines could have almost been lifted from a Disney movie. But they were said with such sincerity that it would seem a crime to begrudge him his dreams and quote him the odds. But then again, miracles have been known to happen with the innocent and untarnished. Who knows just how high this showbiz prince from the icy north can fly?

All in the Game

by Fe Lacsamana

Filipino practitioners of this most eclectic and poetic of martial arts have reaped honors for the country – and have their eyes set on Olympic gold

Wushu Winners

BELIEVE WHAT THE WUSHU NATIONALS SAY. THEY PROMISED TO RETURN HOME VICTORS FROM THE RECENT SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES (SEAG) IN KUALA LUMPUR, AND FOUR NATIONALS BROUGHT HOME GLEAMING GOLDS: JEROME CALICA IN THE 52 KG. *SANSHOU*, MARQUES SANGYIAO IN 60 KG. *SANSHOU*, MARK ROBERT ROSALES IN CUDGEL PLAY AND WILLY WANG IN SWORDPLAY.

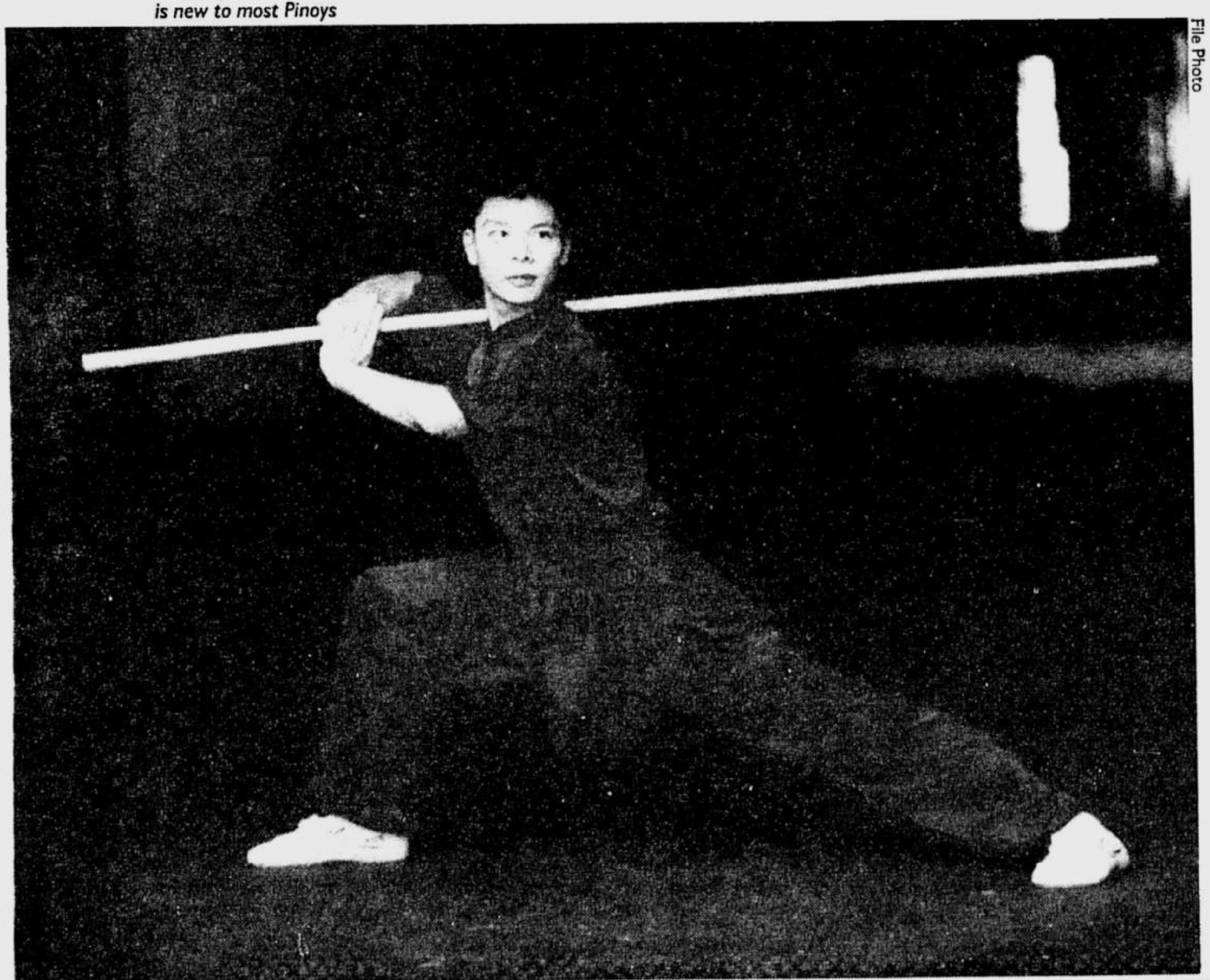
"Filipinos excel because we understand its nuances more, since *wushu* is Asian in origin," explains the youngish sec-gen Edwin Pimentel. "We also have Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) support because we can show results. These subsequently convinced the officers of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines to underwrite the hiring of foreign coaches. Since we started in 1987, we've always had a Chinese coach from Beijing who trains all our retired world champions."

The results-oriented WFP sends its brave hearts to raise performance levels with the best in China two months before a major tournament. However, for the Malaysia SEAG, Coach Yu Zhi Bo made them stay in China for another month.

Jerome, 19, a Baguio native and computer tech student who won a silver in his first outing at the 5th Asian Wushu Championships in Vietnam, relates in Ilocano-inflected Tagalog, "Off season here, two hours *kami sa* gym at night. During competition, three hours in the morning and three in the evening. In China, on a mutton-beef-vegetable-fruit diet, we trained morning, noon and night for much longer hours. We joined whatever sessions the world-class athletes had."

Beijing mornings were usually for 20 rounds of jogging in the oval. Sometimes, they cross-trained with weights and other sports. "In Inner Mongolia, it was mountain-climbing or football. Basketball also, but the ball there was heavy. It was like doing resistance training," adds the ex-kickboxer ex-boxer *sanshou* champion.

Mark Robert Rosales is excelling in a martial art that is new to most Pinoys



File Photo

"Most people call wushu kung fu because of its association with Jackie Chan movies," says Mark Robert, cudgel play gold medalist of the Rome 1997 World Wushu Championships. "Literally, wushu means martial art. Kung fu means skill."

Some 15 years ago, the best features of traditional schools like the dragon, the mantis, monkey, tiger and others were incorporated to create modern-day wushu and make it a sport. To standardize deliberations, seminars for judges were conducted worldwide. The WFP was then made a mother organization, and embraced all martial arts schools, including the lion and the dragon dancers.

"Do you say to a traditionalist martial artist, 'My dragon style is better than your monkey?' *Gulo 'yon.* So, *kailangang pag-isahin.* The ancient forms, considered priceless personal treasures, are now for exhibition purposes," adds Edwin.

Wushu has two categories. The first, *tao lu*, concerns form and routines comprised of the bare hand, and weaponry subdivided into the short weapon (tai chi sword, broad sword and the sword play) and the long weapon (spear play and the cudgel play).

"In *tao lu*, there are no opponents. A compulsory routine is performed on an 18m x 14m carpet. Points are deducted from performance, flexibility, speed, interpretation and balance. Whoever gets nearest to 20 points, wins," clarifies Pimentel, an international referee and a fourth placer in the 1988 World Championships.

The second category is *sanshou* or combat wushu, where ex-taekwondo athlete and Baguio Colleges Foundation criminology senior Marques, 22, was unbeaten in the 60 kg. division.

Wushu differs slightly from other martial arts. While *sanshou* employs punching, kicking, throwing or locking, Korean taekwondo uses hand and foot. In judo, there's throwing and blocking. In karatedo kumite, it's punch and kick. Muay Thai works the fist, elbow, knee and foot. Boxing uses the fists. "These are full contact sparring, and will cause injuries so it requires full protective gear," stresses Pimentel.

The athletes and WFP enjoy a harmonious relationship. As careers are meticulously handled, so is retirement planned. "It hurts to hear that one you've taken care of is penniless or dies poor because he was a wastrel. So the bonuses they get from our officers are put in a trust fund and given to them only at the end of their career. That gives them something to start with. But what the PSC gives them is theirs to keep. *Siempre*, they also have their needs."

With wushu being considered an official sport in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the WFP is serious in training for what could be the country's first Olympic gold. Says the WFP executive, "He or she may still be hidden in a remote area, but we're serious about training a potential winner. We're going down to the grassroots through nationwide workshops for PE teachers who will pass on the first stage of the training program to the young."

Pimentel concludes, "If we want champions like Willy Wang, the swordplay silver winner at the 1999 World Wushu Championships at age 15, we have to start gradually training them at a tender age. Training is the key to a durable athlete."

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Advent Options

Share some offerings for CMY's "The Poor Reaching Out to the Poor" project

COME CELEBRATE THE ADVENT SEASON WITH US AT THE CENTER FOR MIGRANT YOUTH ON DECEMBER 9, 16 AND 23.

December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 in the morning

Exercise your diaphragm with us by rehearsing again the endearing Advent songs like *"Puso Ay Naghihintay," "Sumilang ang Araw sa Lupa," "Hesus, Ikaw ang Ilaw"* while celebrating our Advent II Sunday Eucharist. Bring your musical instrument if you wish, and bring a little star you made yoursel for an exchange of stars during our agape. Come let us sing our beloved carols again to prepare fo December 16. Stay for breakfast today after the Mass.

December 16, Third Sunday of Advent

5:30 in the afternoon

At Eucharist today, let us drown out the sounds of war and hatred in the world with our shouts o gladness and hope to proclaim the victory of God being born again in our hearts on this first day o *Simbang Gabi.* After the Mass, watch excerpts from *"Binhi: Isang Pagtatanghal ng Dula, Sayaw at Awi Mula sa Teatro Liturhikal at sa Himig ni Maria Chorale,"* an Advent offering of the Ina ng Laging Saklol Parish (Punta, Sta. Ana).

December 19

I intend to have a quiet Wednesday on my birthday. Please omit social calls and personal gifts. And n flowers please. Give instead to The Poor Reaching Out to the Poor Project of CMY. *Sa* December 23 *n tayo mag*-party.

December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

4 in the afternoon

Eucharist and *salo-salo* with the poor and outcasts from the neighborhood around Cordillera Stree who are much more in need than we are: street people, market beggars, homeless *kariton* familie dislocated released prisoners, mental patients, young solvent sniffers who come to us every Saturday t be fed and ministered to.

Give to our Poor Reaching Out to the Poor Project:

I. Survival Gifts

Rice, milk, sugar, coffee, noodles, cooking oil, condiments, canned foods, dried fish, toiletries

II. Recyclable Gifts

Usable clothes (for men, women and children), toys for children, blankets

III. Odd Jobs

Usable garden and carpentry tools, barber's set, shoe shine set (box), street vendor's box, *kariton*.

Please bring your gifts on or before December 16 but not later than December 22.

On December 23, help me play host to the "anawim crowd." Share your talents in sketching, singing dancing, story telling, etc. Let us be "Clowns for Christ" this Christmas and become little children in ou hearts again.

Christmas Thoughts

Although December 25 may not be the exact date of the birth of Jesus Christ, we however observe Christmas on that date. But we do not focus our celebration on the date but on the Christ-Event of "the Word becoming Flesh and dwelling among us." (Jn. 1:14)

But that "Word made Flesh" appearing to us as the Baby Jesus of Christmas did not remain a Baby forever. He grew up to become an

photographs by Roger Margallo

Handle with Care

Two new manuals teach embalmers and tattoo artists the correct and sanitary way to deal with death and blood

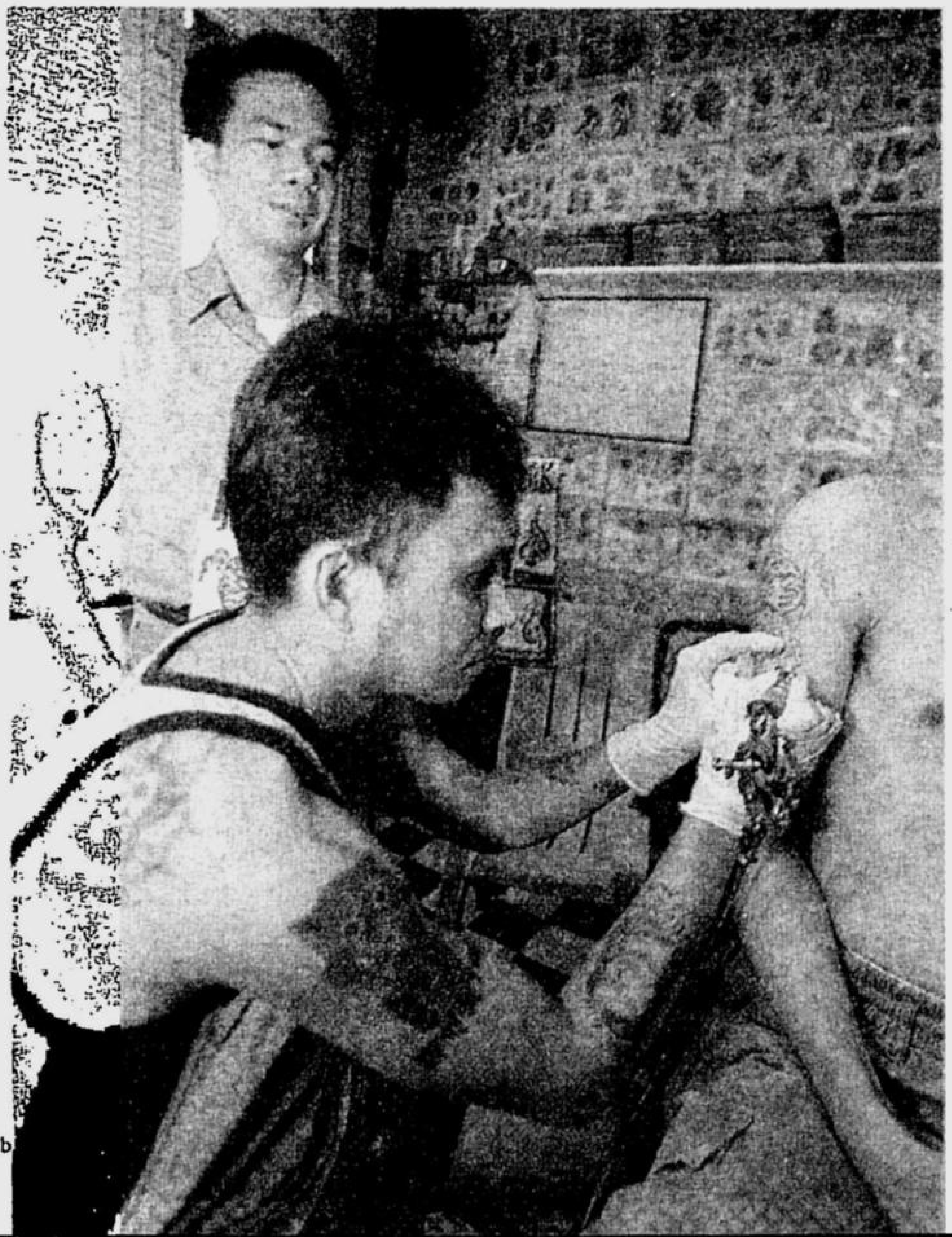
IT WAS THE EARLY '80S, THE HEIGHT OF INSURGENCY IN BICOL, AND CORPSES WERE FAST PILING UP. "SOME OF THE DEAD HAD TO BE BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS, AND THAT TOOK ALL DAY," RECALLS NENET ORTEGA, 45, A MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST WHO HAD MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY THAT OWNED FUNERARIA ORO. HER FATHER-IN-LAW, SHE ADDED, FOUND HIMSELF SHORT-HANDED. THE SOLUTION: DRAFT NENET HERSELF INTO THE BUSINESS.

Lucky for Nenet, she had enough background in parasitology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology to pass the licensure exams. Most embalmers learn the trade hands-on, she notes. "The requirements to qualify for the oral, written and practical exams are very minimal – one must at least be a high school graduate with a minimum of 10 cadavers embalmed." A comprehensive review class usually conducted by funeral parlor owners for in-house embalmers took care of the rest of the needed trade information.

Such state of affairs might have been satisfactory enough for the past 50 years among some 2000 embalmers in the country, but it certainly needed upgrading in these times of HIV/AIDS, says this Program Manager of Care and Clinical Diagnostic Services of the Remedios AIDS Foundation. The Foundation, an AIDS advocacy group that offers hotline, counseling, training, clinical and diagnostic services, recently worked with the Health Department and the Philippine National AIDS Council to come up with "*Ultimo (Sa Huling Sandali)*: A Reference Guide for the Prevention and Control of Diseases in Mortuary Practice," to be launched early next year. A parallel manual, this time for tattoo artists and body piercers, has also been drafted and will be finalized in a meeting this month, according to Foundation executive director Dr. Jojo Sescon.

Embalmers, notes Nenet, are at particular risk of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne infections. "When it comes to HIV-AIDS, our main focus is on sanitation. The theory that germs or microorganisms die upon the death of a person is false. A corpse harbors disease-causing microorganisms that can be a public health hazard. Even germs normally found in the human body might escalate in numbers after death so the body must be sanitized to prevent further growth. This allows the bereaved to view their loved ones in a safe and sanitary environment."

The old practice for HIV cases under the Sanitation Code of the Philippines is to cremate the body or bury it without embalming within 12 hours, even without the family's consent. This was what happened to Sara Jane Salazar, who died of HIV-related diseases last year and was cremated immediately. The new AIDS Law, RA 8504, however, mandates decent burial for People With AIDS, and allows their family to decide whether they'd opt for cremation or burial. The Manual supports this option, says Nenet, although she expressed frustration at how the San Lazaro Hospital — where PWAs are housed — has reportedly been defying the law with its refusal to release the cadavers to the family, "claming public health hazards for its action."



A piercing issue: Dr. Jojo Sescon (left) and Alfred Guevara see tattooing as a public health concern

Nenet notes that when people die at home and there's no doctor to certify the cause of death, the family often reports the cause of death as "natural, *dahil sa katandaan o bangungot* (old age or sleeping disorder). Embalmers won't know for sure. So regardless of cause of death, they must practice universal precautions like wearing rubber gloves, waterproof apron, overshoes, goggles, and so on." Unfortunately, such precautions entail added costs that funeral parlor owners are loathe to shoulder and embalmers could ill afford, given that each job costs a measly P80 to P250 depending on the cause of death.

Some embalmers also resist wearing gloves, she adds, "because they say they can feel better with their bare hands if the fluid has been absorbed by the body." To counter that, she has been training them to use their eyes instead to gauge similar effects.

There are no major changes introduced by the manual, says this former volunteer AIDS counselor. "Basically, the manual urges embalmers to practice universal precautions, to maintain the secrecy on the cause of death, and to learn to deal with the bereaved families.

"There is a direct association with the psychological well being of the bereaved and one's responsibility to the health of the general public. There is always a psychological value to embalming, what I call the moment of truth, when the living confront the body of the loved one they are mourning. Viewing is therapeutic."

Nenet, who shucked a job at the Lung Center because she wanted a "more humane interaction beyond chemicals and re-agents" stresses the need to connect with the family's grief. "We must give the body due respect and reverence. Respect for culture *na rin* because we believe that the dead linger awhile. So while the body is still warm, we must allow relatives some private time to say their final goodbyes—to whisper their last words, to caress and touch the skin, and so on."

FOR Alfred Guevara, an architecture graduate who found a career in tattooing, the idea of the Health department getting into their act sounded intimidating at first. "My initial reaction was, *aba, iinspekyunin yata kami* (uh-oh, another government inspection)," recalls this president of the Philippine Tattoo Artists Guild, an association with about 30 members in Metro Manila and Olongapo.

But the idea of a manual meant to make tattooing a safe practice in these times of HIV-AIDS eventually proved to be a boon, he notes. "It made us very conscious of public health and gave us added information on sanitation and hygiene," adds Alfred, 37. "I also realized that such a manual could professionalize our trade because it would standardize our practices."

Facing HIV-related deaths head on: Ortega bats for a manual to protect embalmers

Actually, says Dr. Jojo Sescon, 35, an OB-Gyne with the Ospital ng Sampaloc and Mary Johnston Hospital, "there is very little risk of HIV-AIDS in tattooing and even less for body piercing. There is very little blood and everything is disposable — the needles, the ink, the tissue and gloves used, and the equipment are sterilized. But this is an informal sector, and we wanted to set standards that will enable the guild to monitor its members based on a set reference point."

Right now, says Alfred, the Guild screens its member applicants for "aesthetic and sanitation concerns." Their instruments and equipment are checked, there's a visual inspection of their shop and working area, a seminar on health and hygiene and even undercover agents to check if the applicant has been aboveboard in giving information.

The Guild, he adds, looks to the DOH as an ally and indeed, says Dr. Sescon, they are helping tattoo artists overcome biases that have resulted in the banning as blood donors of people with tattoos or body piercing. "There's no medical basis for this ban as long as there's good blood screening for malaria, syphilis, hepatitis and HIV," he notes.

The manual, which the Foundation prepared with assistance from Infectious Disease Consultant Dr. Nerissa Isabel Sescon and Dr. Lilia Reyes, sounds reasonable enough. It mandates the practice of universal precautions including the need for specific sanitary structures, a strong water supply, soap or antibacterial agent, clean tissue or towels, structure and equipment in good working condition, adequate waste receptacles and more.

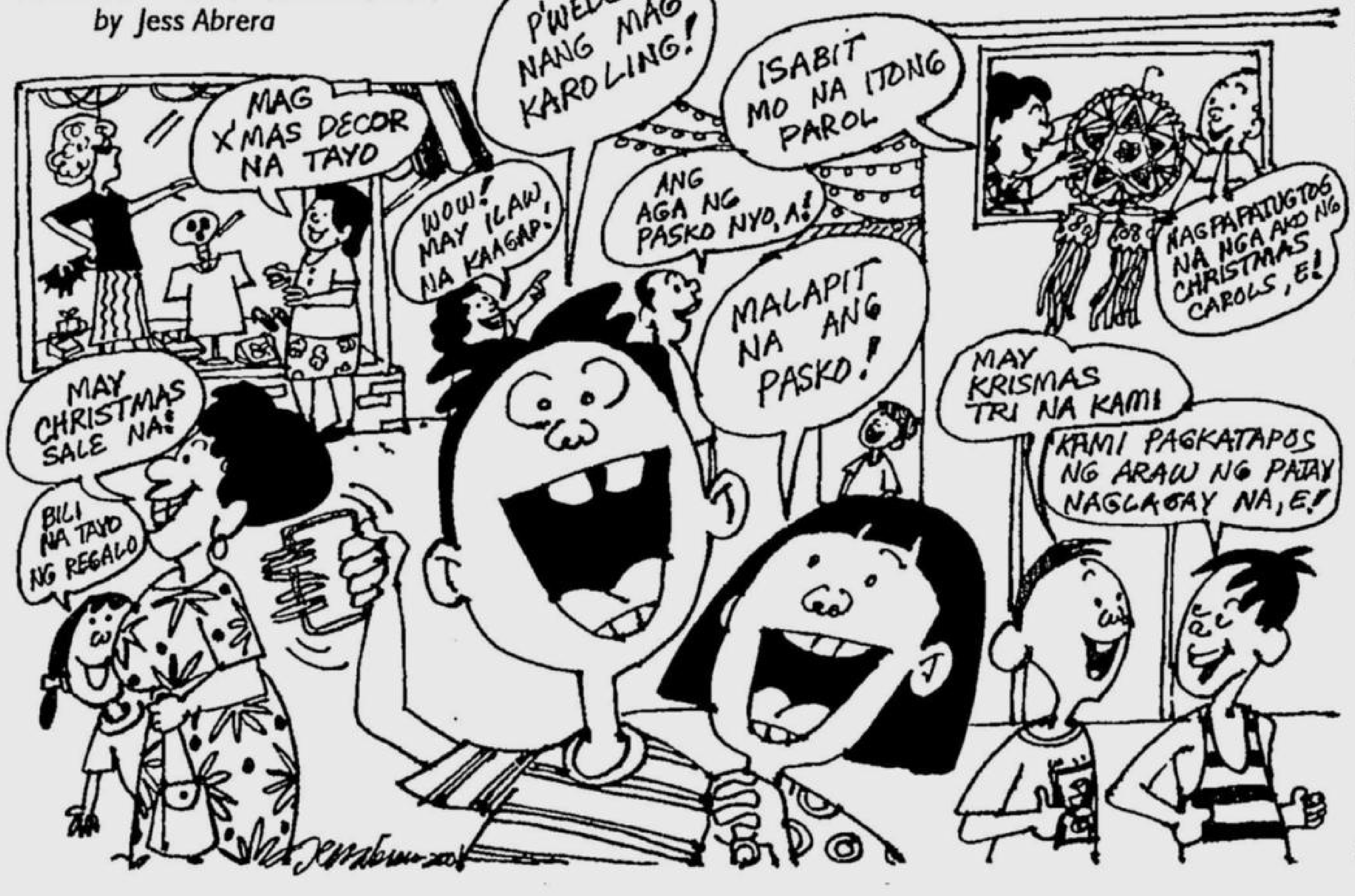
To its credit, says Dr. Sescon, the Guild has been very receptive to the manual and the tattoo artists have been more than willing to share their technology and inputs. "We had a consultation with Philtag this October for the draft. Another meeting on December 5 and 6 will help us decide what step to take next."

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Pagtapos ng Nobyembre


MAG X'MAS DECOR NA TAYO
P'WEDE NANG MAG KAROLING!
ISABIT MO NA ITONG PAROL
WOW! MAY ILAW NA KAAGAD!
ANG AGA NG PASKO NYO, A!
NAGPAPATUGTOG NA NGA AKO NG CHRISTMAS CAROLS, E!
MALAPIT NA ANG PASKO!
MAY CHRISTMAS SALE NA!
MAY KRISMAS TRI NA KAMI
KAMI PAGKATAPOS NG ARAW NG PATAY NAGLAGAY NA, E!
BILI NA TAYO NG REGALO

IN MEMORIAM...from page 7

How are they related as a people and as a discipline?

In 1982, looking over 10 years of trying to give reality to this vision in Caliraya, Junie assessed the experience: Had he realized his dream? His answer: "Yes and no. I got my knocks, I got my wounds, I got my frustrations, I got a lot of learning, I accomplished a few things, failed in a lot of things . . . the process is what has been important to me... People change their values only slowly. You have to learn that all you can really do is set the process moving, get the process to interact and just allow the right kind of stimuli or resources around to evolve."

At age 45, Junie remained an enigma even to his close friends and to business associates. To those who knew him when he was "still of this world," the Junie of latter years was either a mystic, a "monk" or a recluse who will not socialize simply to have something to do.

Sometime in 1984, after the crisis of the Aquino assassination in August 1983, Junie and a core group of like-minded individuals, formed the Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures (PIAF). The group included environmentalist Dr. Celso Roque, public health specialist Dr. Alberto Romualdez, anthropologist Dave Baradas, poet Virgie Moreno, social scientist Maraya de Jesus, educator Marietta Goco, writer Sylvia Mayuga, this writer and others.

Says Junie on why he founded the group: "The government now suffers from a loss of credibility. The people must know that there are alternatives to their futures. We are aware that like other peoples in other lands, there is basically something wrong today. We feel it strongly now because of the crisis we are going through."

Junie's activism took a new tack in the 1980s. The Haribon Foundation (for *Haring Ibon*, by which the large monkey-eating eagle is known) had been established in 1972. It had started as a bird-watching organization with a lot of nature-loving expatriates. When Junie became its president in 1988, Haribon became a militant environmental advocate and an implementor of projects. Junie transformed it from an Audubon society into an environmental activist and fierce defender of the nation's and the world's ecosystem, approaching the belligerence of Greenpeace.

If the 1980s were for Junie dedicated to fighting the battles for conservation and sustainability in development in the Philippines and specific areas like Palawan, the '90s were devoted to global and planet-wide conservation and sustainability. His vision for Haribon might as well be our own vision for the Philippines. In his call for social equity, sustainable development, protecting endangered species and bio-diversity and pursuing regeneration of all forms of life in the planet, Junie said:

"This ongoing task calls for a change: in the way we look at who we are in relation to our Creator, our culture and the rest of creation; a change in the way we express this identity in our sustainable use of natural resources and technologies; and a change in our process of governance to one that empowers people through their participation in realizing a vision of one community... Deep Ecology calls us to recognize the reality of our sacred interconnectedness beyond political ideologies. It is a great opportunity for the affirmation of the beauty and power of life."

It is a vision for our time and for the planet, but most especially for our country and our people. Junie would not have wanted us to mourn his death, but to celebrate his life, and to honor it by strengthening our will to pursue this vision.

This Week

Art

R.M. de Leon holds his exhibit of new works on paper until Jan. 5, 2002 at Firma, 616 J. Nakpil St., Malate.

Rising Ground, Dan Raralio's latest exhibit comprising a body of impasto paintings with unique visual effects at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell until Dec. 5.

AAP's 54th Annual Art Competition, an exhibit of the award-winning and entry pieces in the categories of painting, sculpture, mixed media, drawing, printmaking, digital art and photography at the GSIS Museum, Financial Center, Pasay City until Dec. 15

Collectibles from Bangkok available at the Christmas @ 2001 Shop Expo

Field Trip, Nunelucio Alvarado's paintings of passing scenes and images, until Dec. 7 at Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila.

Permanent Collection features the works of National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala and H.R. Ocampo with a dozen contemporary Filipino artists ongoing at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Music

Dingdong Avanzado Up Close, Dec. 5, 8 p.m. at Onstage, Greenbelt, Makati City. Featuring The First Circle Band, CADS Dancers, The Policy and a surprise guest. The show is for the benefit of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila Church Lyceum of Aparri, Cagayan. Tickets available at TicketWorld (891-5610), National Bookstore outlets, Robinsons Department Store and Tower Records.

Concert at the Park presents **From the Nutcracker Suite and Other Favorite Children's Ballets** featuring the students of the Vella Damian School of Ballet bringing to life the color and magic of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Dec. 2, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Padre Faura Sin Verguenza, a pre-World War II period play about life in the old Padre Faura UP campus written by Victor Avecilla, Dec. 6, 7 and 8 at the Aldaba Recital Hall, UP Theater, UP Diliman with matinees at 3 p.m. and gala performances at 6:30 p.m. For ticket inquiries, call 413-2435 or 0917-5349053.

Tiktipaklong, a children's musical presented by the Mobile Theater Foundation and Tanghalang Santa Ana about a young grasshopper who was tasked by his mother to look for food for the family but was tempted to play since it was the first day of summer. Performances are on Dec. 5, 7, 12 and 14 with matinee shows at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets at P50 are available at the Sta. Ana Arts Center, Plaza Calderon cor. Suter Sts., Sta. Ana, Manila. For details, call 562-7094.

The Secret Garden, Repertory Philippines' new musical about little Mary Lennox and her adventures in a mysterious garden which seems to have a wonderful, magical effect on all who comes into it, Dec. 2 at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza, and at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City from Dec. 6-16. For details, call 633-4821 to 25.

Cinema

Cinemanila International Film Festival 2001 will be held on Dec. 7-16 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas. The festival will showcase 75 acclaimed films, including shorts and documentaries from all over the world. Aside from the screenings, Cinemanila will also hold a series of seminars and symposia covering a wide range of subjects on filmmaking to be conducted by a team of local and international film experts.

Food

Winter Wonder World @ Dads, a festive, international array of Christmas buffet at Dads featuring Beef Pate Maison, Chicken Ala Kiev, Pork Rolls Morandi, Whistle Squid, Creamed Zucchini, Yuletide Tartlets and many more. Available at Dads SM Megamall, Glorietta III and Alabang Town Center. For inquiries, call 636-3787.

Cassaluna Bar and Restaurant (1148 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila) provides regular entertainment from Mondays to Saturdays featuring some of today's most sought-after show bands. Aside from great music, it's also getting known for serving a sumptuous mix of Spanish, Mediterranean and Filipino cuisine. For details, call 536-3843 to 44.

Manila Diamond Hotel's Palm Court Café features a daily variation of cuisine with **themed buffets.** Monday and Friday feature international buffet. Go Oriental with an assortment of Filipino and Chinese dishes every Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday features Spanish cuisine. Saturday is a gastronomic feast of Asian cuisine. Sunday is family fun day with delectable dishes for the whole family. For inquiries, call 526-2211.

Dusit Hotel Nikko will be offering ***puto bumbong*** **and** ***bibingka*** at The Deli Shop until Dec. 31. Guests may order a plate of creamy *bibingka* or *puto bumbong* with their choice of hot coffee, tea or *salabat*. These will also be available for breakfast from 5-9 a.m. on Dec. 16 to 23 for Dawn Masses attendees. For inquiries, call 867-3333 ext. 3356.

Mandarin Oriental's Tin Hau Restaurant offers a 20 percent discount on an appetizing assortment of **freshly made dim sum** as well as rice and noodle dishes from Monday to Friday if you make your last order by 11:30 a.m. and leave by 12 noon. Regular a la carte menu prices apply from 11:30 a.m. onwards. For details, call 750-8888 ext. 2422.

Atbp

Dula-daluyan '01, a three-day art festival spearheaded by the Philippine Educational Theater Association from Dec. 7-9 at the Rajah Sulayman Theater, Fort Santiago, Manila aimed to provide young people with opportunities to hone their craft as artists and exhibit/perform these to audiences such as their peers and the public. Students and teachers are encouraged to join. For details, call 410-0822 and 724-9637.

Adarna House is holding a **Christmas sale** until Dec. 15 at the Adarna House Showroom, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Bgy. Laging Handa, QC. Expect big discounts on your favorite storybooks and manuals. An activity and storytelling area for kids has also been established to make your visit both fun and educational. For inquiries, call 372-3548 to 49.

The Nature Awareness & Conservation Club Inc. is offering the following **nature awareness camps:** Dec. 26-30, Sagada Nature and Heritage Tour; Jan. 19, 2002, Taal Volcano Fun Hike; Feb. 2 and 3, 2002, Mt. Maculot Valentins Camp. Offers discounts to early registrants. Group discount is also available. For inquiries, call Violet Imperial at 806-1720 or text 0919-5785984.

Wings Entertainment announces its annual **Playwriting Contest.** Writers are invited to submit their full-length plays (two or more acts) on any subject matter. All entries must be submitted in three copies, typewritten, double-spaced on regular size bond paper. Manuscripts should be written either in Tagalog or English. It should include the author's name, address, contact numbers and a comprehensive biodata. Playscripts must be submitted to Wings Entertainment c/o Act Entertainment Inc., Rm. 1543, Mega Plaza Bldg., ADB Ave. cor. Garnet st. (at the back of Robinsons Galleria). For inquiries, call 687-1855. Deadline is on Jan. 31, 2002.

Calling all Paco Catholic School alumni. There will be a **grand alumni homecoming** on Dec. 8 at the Paco Catholic School grounds. For inquiries, call Jingle at 563-2574.

An intensive 10-session course on **Self Defense for Women** to be conducted by the Ichiban Martial Arts Academy will be offered at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Building, Cubao. For details, call 421-8344 (MWF only) or 0912-4950239.

Genetic Computer Institute (2/F Sunshine Square Plaza, Liberty Center, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City) has an ongoing Buy 1, Take 1 anniversary promo. Students who enroll in selected courses are given one course free. It also conducts half-day **free trainings on E-commerce** every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries, call 535-1026 to 29.

Christmas @ 2001 Shop Expo, a Yuletide fundraising event for the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, Dec. 2 at the World Trade Center and Noel Christmas Bazaar at the Manila Polo Club on Dec. 15-16. For details, call 371-7405 and 620-4328.

X-manila

Romansa ng Nobela, a workshop on writing romance novels, Dec. 8 and 9 at Sariaya, Quezon. For details, call (042) 651-1506 and (042) 373-8050.

The Camillian Sisters in cooperation with Kairos Liturgical and Pastoral Theater Ministry present the children and youth from a slum area in Antipolo City in a benefit show *Isang Dula, Paghilom...Paglilingkod,* portraying the healing ministry of Jesus and his contemporaries. It is a fundraising project for the residents of Sitio Cavite to have potable drinking water. Performances are on Dec. 9, 15, at 7 p.m. and Jan. 19, 2002 at 7 p.m. at the Camillian Sisters' Hall, Kingsville Subdivision, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. For details, call Sr. Siony or Sr. Daisy at 645-2463.

St. John Academy will celebrate its golden anniversary with a grand homecoming on Dec. 12-15 at Calamba, Laguna. All alumni may contact Nick Diaz at 895-1231, 896-9013 and 870-8764; Cristy Yabut (0917-9634569), and Nery Mendoza (0917-8906374 or 049-5452273.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.